ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY
FEATURES

14 Access and Opportunity
A series of articles looks at the University’s role as a pioneer in inclusive education and how it continues to advance the rights of people with disabilities through advocacy, research, and academic initiatives.

32 Strengthening Philanthropy
John Chapple ’75, retiring chairman of the SU Board of Trustees, shares his perspective on ensuring SU’s future.

36 Einstein’s Cosmic Symphony
As part of an international collaboration, a team of SU physicists is trying to detect the universe’s elusive gravitational waves amid a cacophony of noise.

42 Champions for Children
In memory of their infant son, John ’69, G’70 and Patty Reilly are committed to ensuring safe child care settings and provider training.
on the cover:
su’s pioneering work on disability issues and its commitment to an inclusive campus have played significant roles in the lives of many through the years. pictured (left to right): graduate student amanda fallon, undergraduate samuel attard ’13, former school of education dean burton blatt, graduate student alexander bankole williams, and college of law professor michael schwartz g’06.

2 chancellor’s message
3 opening remarks
4 orange matters
   » architecture  » biomedical engineering
   » syracuse hillel  » research snapshot
   » university treasures
10 su people
44 alumni journal
CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE

AS WE CONCLUDE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC YEAR, WE’RE NOT only reaching the end of 2010-11, but marking a decade of work at SU to build on the 2001 Academic Plan and our vision of Scholarship in Action that followed it.

Both of these have leveraged what makes Syracuse so special—our powerful combination of extraordinary professional schools and pinnacles of excellence across the liberal arts—positioning us as a nimble and agile research institution in an increasingly diverse world where the problems are complex and the potential for solutions requires all hands on deck.

All of our progress has been undergirded by multi-year investments in our faculty and facilities, and diversification and significant growth in our portfolio of sponsored research funding and support. During the past decade, we have increased the number of full-time faculty by 20 percent and invested $365 million in research/academic facilities and collaborative venues. Reflective of SU’s agility and entrepreneurial focus, our research portfolio—which has grown by 94 percent in the past 10 years—draws from a wide array of funding sources: federal, state, and local government; corporations; and foundations.

Leveraging our map of excellence, we have created a set of 11 interdisciplinary, highly collaborative research clusters (see: syr.edu/irc) that are breaking down traditional silos to address major issues from global security, biomaterials, and disabilities to inclusive education (pages 14-31), environmental sustainability, entrepreneurship, and the role of the arts, technology, and design in revitalizing metropolitan America. This cluster framework includes faculty leadership appointments, targeted investment from central and school/college resources, cross-discipline degree programs, opportunity for student engagement, and cross-sector partnerships that enrich research and advance scholarly excellence.

Integral to all of this extraordinary interdisciplinary research is educating the next generation of leaders, and partnering with corporations, foundations, local residents, global collaborators, and nonprofits to demonstrate the value of higher education as a public good. This is especially crucial at a time when universities must engage in the world and not depend solely on one avenue of external partnership or support. The entire SU community should rightly be proud of our map of excellence and we are optimistic that the many substantive partnerships we have formed will continue to make a difference in the world.

Cordially,

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor and President
TURING ACCESS INTO SUCCESS

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT POTENTIAL, IT’S OFTEN IN THE CONTEXT OF SPORTS, BUT CAN REFER to just about anything: He has all-star potential; she showed such potential. As members of a society interminably tangled up in our own popular culture, we often fancy ourselves in the role of judges on a reality TV show, casting opinions on whether someone exceeded our expectations or disappointed us by not living up to our “established” standards.

For anyone with a disability, this armchair umpiring comes as no surprise. People with disabilities have long been at the forefront of dispelling myths and preconceived notions about their abilities. But what we, as a society, have often done is fail to even consider their potential. We have overlooked, neglected, or excluded them, out of our own ignorance—and to our own detriment. My sister, who has worked for decades with people who have severe developmental disabilities, taught me years ago about the importance of recognizing people with disabilities on their own terms, rather than ours. Unfortunately, when we encounter people or issues that we know little about, we often react out of fear, making uninformed judgments that disregard individual circumstances and personal understanding.

In the documentary film *Wretches & Jabberers*, produced by School of Education Dean Douglas Biklen G’73, the two main characters—advocate Tracy Thresher and artist Larry Bissonnette—take their autism on the road, traveling the world in hopes of enlightening people’s attitudes about the condition. “To move people’s knowledge of disability to a positive place” is how Thresher describes the purpose of their journey.

For decades, disability rights advocates have worked to reach that “positive place.” As the feature article “Access and Opportunity” attests, the legacy of the disability rights movement here at Syracuse University lives on, continuing to forge ahead on numerous fronts, from classroom innovations to entrepreneurial ventures. By ensuring access and opportunity for people with disabilities, we open new worlds not just for them, but for ourselves as well. By recognizing their strengths, we enrich all of our lives. And key to so much of this progress is education. By committing to education for all, we create opportunities for success. While success is never a given, it’s hardly an option without access. And if we want to live up to our own expectations as a diverse, inclusive, civilized society, we need to do all we can to ensure that people with disabilities are accepted and recognized, and have the chance to reach their full potential and succeed. “Mankind expresses itself finely in variety,” Bissonnette types into a computer screen in response to a young Japanese artist with autism who wonders why there are people with autism. “We are one branch of many on a long, lots of leaves, diverse, and wonderful beauty tree.”
WHILE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES OF LIGHT rail transit as a catalyst for revitalizing cities, School of Architecture graduate students visited the office of an SU alumnus last fall to get some inside information on the subject. There’s nothing unusual about that, except the office was Detroit City Hall and the alum-insider was Mayor Dave Bing ’66. “The students asked questions and offered ideas about the proposed Woodward Avenue transportation corridor,” says Professor Brett Snyder, crediting Chancellor Nancy Cantor and her staff for facilitating the meeting for the Urban Catalysts studio course, which he co-teaches with professors Lori Brown and Anne Munly. “The discussion touched on such issues as how light rail can be built as pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly, and how stations can stimulate commercial development and cultural expression in city neighborhoods. The mayor and his staff were incredibly gracious and forthcoming.”

Bing, who majored in economics at SU while becoming one of the all-time great Orange basketball stars, is aggressively seeking fresh ideas to remake Detroit as a 21st-century city, and he requested copies of finished class projects. He told the students that for light rail and other innovations to succeed, some 10,000 substandard, abandoned, and isolated structures will have to be torn down in the city, which has lost half its population in the past 30 years. Summarizing that view to The Washington Post, Bing said, “The key to our coming back is being focused and making sure that we’ve got the right kind of density in the right parts of the city.”

A highlight of the city hall meeting with the architecture students occurred when Elvira Ibragimova G’12 asked if there was a plan for recycling the materials of demolished buildings. “At the time, there was no specific recycling plan, which usually means most of the demolition will go to a landfill,” Snyder says. “It was great to see one of our students getting city officials to pause and think about how those materials might be put to more strategic uses.” Ibragimova pursued the recycling of demolished buildings in her studio project and continues to explore the subject as part of her master’s thesis. She also came away from the meeting inspired by a sense of enthusiasm for tackling problems that are often dismissed as intractable. “It was refreshing to speak to Mayor Bing, who seems to have his eye on the future,” she says. “I believe he is collecting multiple resources to re-invent Detroit’s infrastructure, as well as its intellectual and social fabric.”

Earlier in the semester, the class studied Charleston, South Carolina. Although a very different kind of a city than Detroit, Charleston is also considering the merits of light rail for its transit mix, and students entered a design competition held by the city’s chapter of Architecture for Humanity, a nonprofit that seeks architectural solutions to social problems. The competition jury included renowned architectural designer Cameron Sinclair, a founder of the organization. Irini Zhuapa G’12 was among the competitors. “Each team had one month to come up with a design proposal for a light rail station that addressed the character and environmental concerns of Charleston,” she says. “I am proud to say that most of the teams from our class placed in the competition, and that my team won third place.”

Snyder sees benefits for architecture students in exploring urban problems and solutions of every type, but finds Detroit particularly fascinating at this pivotal moment in its history. “My colleague, Lori Brown, and I are so enamored of Detroit that we have taken it on again, this time for an undergraduate studio,” he says. “In some ways, we see similarities between the problems facing Detroit and Syracuse, such as the presence of large manufacturing buildings without tenants. When we toured the old Packard automobile plant in Detroit, some students took up the question of ‘What is the next thing for this giant old factory?’ In Syracuse, we’re asking the same question on the Near West Side.” Beyond the industrial-age characteristics shared by the two cities, Detroit holds a special attraction for Syracuse University students. Where else do you get face time with the mayor? —David Marc
TARGETING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

ON A WALL IN HER OFFICE AT THE SYRACUSE BIOMATERIALS INSTITUTE (SBI), BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING professor Rebecca Bader has a constant reminder to inspire her research: Several X-rays are pieced together to outline the body of her aunt, who has battled rheumatoid arthritis for more than four decades. “She’s had all major joints replaced,” Bader says of her aunt, Sue Weidenborner. “Her wrists and ankles are both fused and all the bones in her toes were removed, but she refuses to be in a wheelchair. She loves to emphasize that she’s independent.”

If Bader has her way, her current research will lead to an innovative treatment for those with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic autoimmune disease that stiffens, inflames, and ultimately can deform or destroy joints. Methotrexate and cyclosporine A, two drugs commonly used to treat RA, circulate throughout the entire body, attacking healthy and damaged tissues without distinction, and over the long term can produce adverse side effects, including liver and kidney damage. Awarded a two-year, $174,990 grant from the National Science Foundation, Bader is developing a drug delivery system specifically targeted to treat RA with enhanced efficacy and reduced side effects. This targeted system relies on polysaccharide-based nanoparticles to deliver medications to inflamed joint tissues. “We need to make sure these carrier systems are good to travel around the whole body,” says Bader, a member of the biomedical and chemical engineering department. “Our first step is to ensure that we can administer them systemically so they can go anywhere, but only collect in joint tissues.”

According to Bader, blood vessels in diseased tissue are leakier than those in healthy tissue. Their pores are larger in both number and size and have a higher permeability. This allows appropriately sized doses of drugs to naturally seep into affected areas and accumulate there. For instance, pores in kidneys are only five nanometers in size, while pores in rheumatic joint tissue are closer to 100 nanometers, Bader explains. “If you make something 20 nanometers in size, it will be far less likely to go through the pores in the kidneys and more likely to go easily through the pores in the rheumatic joint tissue,” she says.

Since rheumatic tissue contains a specific type of cell receptor, Bader is also exploring the use of a polysaccharide that binds to the receptor, increasing the likelihood that the drug will remain there and be absorbed by the cells. As natural, biodegradable, non-immunogenic polymers, polysaccharides appear ideal for this kind of treatment. “Everything in this research is based on sugar molecules,” Bader says. “Since they’re naturally biodegradable, they won’t stay in the body forever and they probably won’t cause any immune response that you might have with some synthetic polymers.”

Initially, Bader delved into synthetic polymers, but she found they tend to cause inflammation and are complicated to create, a potential obstacle for commercialization. However, conversations about polysaccharides with chemistry professor Rob Doyle helped point her in the right direction. Through the NSF grant, she is also collaborating with the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) on several fronts, including raising awareness about RA. She spoke at a BBI seminar in February and, with BBI assistance, plans to recruit a student with a disability to join her team of graduate and undergraduate researchers. She also hopes to attract funding from industry to support her research on the arduous path of bringing a new drug therapy to market. “This research keeps me motivated,” Bader says. “We’re all pretty excited about it.”

—Jay Cox
IT’S POSSIBLE TO COVER A LOT OF GROUND ON A short walk through the Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life. From the pool table and widescreen TV to the kosher kitchen and the Ark of the Covenant, the facility is designed to accommodate the sweeping range of interests, beliefs, and identities found among some 3,000 Jewish students on the SU campus. “There’s a multitude of ways to become part of Hillel, and we encourage them all,” says Lowell H. Lustig, executive director of Syracuse Hillel, celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. “For example, we typically have about 125 students for Shabbat dinner and services on Friday night. While some enjoy it mainly as a social occasion, there are those whose focus is the religious aspect.”

Many students are attracted by Hillel activities expressing Jewish commitment to tzedek (“social justice”) and tikkun olam (“repairing the world”). In one such endeavor, volunteers worked for the Florida-based Gift of Life Campaign, which is building a database aimed at facilitating the close genetic matches necessary for bone marrow transplants. Conducting three campaigns during a six-year period, Hillel students collected DNA samples from more than 1,800 potential donors. Their work, recognized at Orange Central last fall with an Orange Circle Award for altruism, is having immediate impact. In February, five successful matches were found among candidates registered in the Syracuse drives.

Founded in 1923, Hillel today is the largest Jewish student organization in the world, with more than 500 chapters in a dozen countries. On campus since 1950, Syracuse Hillel reached a milestone in 2004 when it moved from crowded quarters in Hendricks Chapel to the Winnick Center, made possible with a lead gift from 2010 Arents Award winner Karen Winnick ’68 and her husband, Gary Winnick. “Although we’ve got our own place now, we continue to be an integral part of Hendricks Chapel and to support the interfaith cooperation it fosters,” Lustig says. “At the same time, we have more opportunities to develop our own distinct identity.”

Two major festivities capped off SU Hillel’s 60th anniversary year. In March, the entire student body was invited to join Hillel in a week-long celebration at Schine Student Center. Sponsored by Chancellor Nancy Cantor and the Chancellor’s Cabinet, the bash featured dance concerts with such artists as DJ Diplo, Rye Rye, and The Postelles, and a “Shabbat in Song” with composer-musician Robert Recht. In keeping with Hillel’s tradition of social conscience as part of social life, all funds raised at concession stands were earmarked for Hendricks Chapel interfaith programs and several community service events were held as well. “I can’t tell you how excited we were to put this together,” says Syracuse Hillel president Michael Weiss ’12, an accounting and strategic human resources management major. “It was one of the largest student celebrations in the University’s history.” SU alumni marked Hillel at 60 in April at Manhattan’s Grand Hyatt Hotel as part of the Eternal Light Gala Award Dinner. The guests of honor were Benjamin B. Ferencz, one of the last surviving prosecutors from the Nuremberg Trials, and Robert B. Fagenson ’70, a 2001 Arents honoree who was named 2010 Alumnus of the Year by the Whitman School of Management. SU students, led by music professor Elisa Dekaney, performed selections from the Recovered Voices project, which promotes the music of Jewish composers suppressed by Nazi Germany.

“We want Hillel to show up in places beyond our walls, involved in activities that bring value to students well beyond our core mission,” Lustig says. “This is a student-driven organization and there’s no limit to what our students can do.” Weiss, who traces his Hillel attachment to Freshfest, the organization’s pre-orientation program, says, “This place is really a second home to me.”

—David Marc
PROJECT: National Health and Aging Trends Study

INVESTIGATOR: Douglas A. Wolf

DEPARTMENT: Public Administration

SPONSOR: Johns Hopkins University

AMOUNT AWARDED: $24 million in total, over the period of September 2008 to August 2013. This includes a substantial amount for survey operations.

BACKGROUND: The National Health and Aging Trends Study (nhatspubdemo.westat.com), formerly known as the National Study of Disability Trends and Dynamics, is funded by the National Institute on Aging. The project is led by a steering committee with members from Westat (a survey research organization), Brown University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, the Urban Institute (a federally chartered nonprofit research organization), and Syracuse University, in addition to Johns Hopkins University. It is designed to provide trend data on disability that is comparable to the 1982-2004 National Long Term Care Survey, which showed a major decline in disability among people 65 and older, beginning around 1984. Whether this trend has continued is not known. Moreover, the reasons for the trend, as well as for any more recent slowdown in the trend, are not well understood.

IMPACT: The goal of this study is to collect data that can be used in two main ways: (1) to promote scientific inquiry into late-life disability trends and dynamics, their antecedents and correlates, and disparities among them; and (2) to advance study of the social and economic consequences of late-life disability for individuals, families, and society. The findings from the survey are intended to help with efforts to reduce disability and to improve the daily lives of older people.
During her distinguished career as a high school guidance counselor, Sara Jane Caum '50 dedicated her life to helping countless students reach their educational goals. As an active member of the Syracuse University Alumni Association—serving as president and secretary—she gave time and energy to her beloved alma mater. And today, her legacy of caring lives on through a bequest to Syracuse University to support SU students—now and in the future.

You can make a difference, too.
Bequests don’t have to be big to have an impact. In fact, SU’s continued success is the direct result of thousands of bequests—large and small—made by alumni and friends. To learn how you can do the same, call 888.352.9535, or e-mail giftplan@syr.edu. For help on writing a bequest, visit giving.syr.edu/samplebequest.

Be a leader.
When you make a bequest, you’ll be recognized as a Syracuse University Pathfinder—joining a group of insightful leaders who have included SU in their long-term financial plans and are leading the way for SU students of today and tomorrow.

Sara Jane Caum... made a difference in her lifetime. And still does.
IF THE GENERAL TENDENCY OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY was to keep people with disabilities out of sight and mind, a glaring exception was the “freak show,” a type of popular entertainment that thrived in American circuses, fairs, and amusement parks before migrating to tabloid periodicals and the movies. During the late 19th century, photographers documented this phenomenon by shooting studio portraits of people with disabilities who made careers as sideshow performers. A century later, SU sociologist Robert Bogdan ’64, G’71 viewed Ronald G. Becker’s extraordinary collection of such photographs while conducting research for his book, *Freak Show: Presenting Human Oddities for Amusement and Profit* (1989), which has since gained a reputation as a classic text in the field of disability studies. “Syracuse was one of the first universities to create a disabilities studies program, and I’m proud to have been part of that initiative,” says Bogdan, now Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Social Science and Education. “Knowledge of an earlier era’s attitudes toward people with disabilities helps us understand our own attitudes.”

Realizing the importance of preserving and providing access to the photos, Bogdan was instrumental in persuading Becker to donate them to SU Library’s Special Collections Research Center, where the images and related artifacts now constitute the Ronald G. Becker Collection (library.syr.edu/digital/guides/b/becker_eisemann.htm). Bogdan continues to make good use of the unique resource he helped bring to campus. He is currently at work on a new book, *Beggars, Freaks, and Citizens: Photographic Depictions of People with Disabilities*, for Syracuse University Press. “My purpose in the book is to expand the reader’s understanding of how people with disabilities are depicted in historical photographs,” Bogdan says.

—David Marc

Photos courtesy of SU Special Collections Research Center
DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AT SU, JOHN GIAMMATTEO ’11 WAS so intrigued by what he learned about forced migration in an anthropology course that he discussed it with his mother, a high school teacher. She suggested he could learn more about the issue firsthand by talking to a group of refugees from Myanmar who had been virtually abandoned by the agency that had resettled them in Waterbury, Connecticut, a short distance from where the Giammatteos live. He followed up on her recommendation and soon forged a friendship with one of the refugees, a young man named So Ray Ber from the Karen State in southeast Myanmar (Burma). Despite their vastly different backgrounds, the two were close in age, with a mutual interest in fishing and soccer. “We started hanging out when I was home,” says Giammatteo, a dual major in anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences and magazine journalism in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. “Through getting to know him, I became interested in the whole process of being pulled out of your own country and dropped into another one.”

Ray Ber’s experience inspired Giammatteo to focus his coursework on studying the impact of migration on people compelled to leave their homes due to war, political or religious differences, or natural disasters. A Coronat and Remembrance Scholar who will serve as a Newhouse Class Marshal at Commencement, Giammatteo is already well traveled. He studied at the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies in India through SU Abroad’s World Partnership Program, worked in Sri Lanka as a research assistant to a professor conducting a study of the people displaced by the 2004 Asian tsunami, and last summer conducted fieldwork in Thailand for his Honors Program thesis on how Myanmar refugees are adapting to life there. An article he wrote for Forced Migration Review focused on the conditions facing Sri Lankan refugees in India. “There are many camps, with a total of about 125,000 people,” says Giammatteo, who has twice contracted the mosquito-borne dengue fever in his travels. “Some of them have been there for more than 20 years. They have rebuilt their lives in exile, living in an agricultural warehouse, with a 10-by-10-meter space per family. The linen bedsheets walls had just recently been replaced with actual plywood dividers.”

Last November, Giammatteo was notified that he had been named a 2011 Marshall Scholar, the first Syracuse University student to be chosen for the prestigious award by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission of Great Britain. Established in 1953 in honor of General George C. Marshall, former U.S. secretary of state, the highly selective scholarships are awarded to up to 40 American students of exceptional ability per year to study in the United Kingdom. Giammatteo will pursue master’s degrees in global migration at City University London and in Southeast Asian Studies at the University of London’s School for Oriental and African Studies. His long-term goal is to earn a doctorate in anthropology.

Applying for the Marshall Scholarship was a rigorous, time-consuming process, and Giammatteo credits the advice and assistance he received from his professors and the Honors Program for his success. “I wouldn’t be a Marshall Scholar if I hadn’t been at Syracuse,” he says. “The mock interviews my professors put me through helped so much, getting me to think about what angles to cover and how to present what I’ve done in the best way possible. They were phenomenally helpful and this award is as much theirs as it is mine.”

—Paula Meseroll
SHARON GREYTAK’S NEW FILM, *Archeology of a Woman*, stars Golden Globe winner Sally Kirkland as a woman with dementia, whose daughter takes time out from her fast-track career to come home and care for her. Set for release this year, the film is Greytak’s third dramatic feature. But she insists that writing, directing, and producing narrative films—or even using actors in her films—was not what she had in mind when she became interested in filmmaking or even while she studied for an M.F.A. degree just a few exits from Hollywood at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

“I started out as a painter, studying with David Salle and Barbara Krueger at the Hartford Art School,” says Greytak, a film professor in the transmedia department at College of Visual and Performing Arts. “The Hartford program wasn’t traditional. Even though I was a painting major, I learned to make short non-narrative films, and that’s what spun me in this direction. I thought about my work in very theoretical terms.” Greytak’s lack of studio envy was understandable. Her early non-narrative films, including *Some Pleasure on the Level of the Source* and *Czechoslovakian Woman*, were well received in experimental film circles, bringing her grants and screenings at such world-class venues as the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in Manhattan and the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

As she achieved these successes, Greytak, who has used a wheelchair since contracting rheumatoid arthritis during childhood, became increasingly aware of a troubling contradiction in her life, and shifted the focus of her work accordingly. “I was becoming so well known for my films that I could go into a place like MOMA and people would ask me what I was working on and tell me how much they’d love to see my next film,” she says. “But when I would step back out into the street, I was struck by how differently I was perceived.” Greytak believes people fear disability and when they see it in others they project that fear as well as related negative feelings. This led her to make her first documentary, *Weirded Out and Blown Away* (1986), in which people with disabilities reveal their thoughts about how others perceive them. She then crossed genre boundaries again to produce dramatic narrative films: *Hearing Voices* (1991) concerns a fashion model whose world is altered by a medical procedure; *The Love Lesson* (1995) explores the relationship of an absent biological mother and her son when she attempts to become part of his life after he has been diagnosed with HIV.

Greytak completed the script for *Archeology of a Woman* during artist residencies at Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, New York, and the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, and received production funding from the New York State Council on the Arts. She appears to have become comfortable in balancing the duties of her dual roles as independent filmmaker and teacher. “Working on *Archeology of a Woman* last summer was one of the best times of my life,” she says. “I’m teaching a full-time course load and making feature films, and feeling really good about being able to do both. That’s the kind of professor I want to be for my students—a practicing artist.”

—David Marc
principal investigator on a $300,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Vander Werff aims to shed light on how traumatic brain injury (TBI) affects the central auditory system and to find more effective ways to diagnose and treat TBI-related auditory problems. “We are looking at how TBI affects different parts of the central auditory system within the brain, and how damage to these areas may be related to the symptoms people experience, including cognitive and memory impairments, stress, anxiety, and depression,” she says.

Vander Werff is collaborating on the project with Brian Rieger, director of the Concussion Management Program and CNY Sports Concussion Center at SUNY Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. They are among the researchers nationwide who are taking a harder look at the long-term consequences of TBI due, in part, to growing numbers of sports-related head injuries, as well as an estimated 195,500 cases of TBI among Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. In addition to processing sound, the central auditory system helps the brain make sense of what people hear. TBI can result in significant central auditory problems that are difficult to diagnose due to a lack of obvious hearing loss or radiological evidence of injury. Much about TBI remains unknown, which is why Vander Werff’s research is so important.

Vander Werff began studying the auditory system as an undergraduate at Northeast Missouri State University. “I liked the mix of using science and technology to help people connect with the world around them through hearing,” she says. After earning a master’s degree in clinical audiology from the University of Iowa in 1993, Vander Werff worked as a clinician in California and at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In 1995, she switched gears to coordinate a clinical trial at the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Iowa City, which was part of a national study being conducted at VA hospitals. “I was intrigued by the combination of clinical work and research,” says Vander Werff, who grew up on a farm near Pella, Iowa.

The clinical trial prompted Vander Werff to pursue a Ph.D. degree in speech and hearing science at Iowa, where she worked with new technologies designed to record the brain’s response to sound and learned to use this information to assess hearing ability. Her early research focused on analyzing neural responses to diagnose hearing loss in infants and children. She came to SU as a postdoctoral research associate in 2003 and continued that work, which eventually led her to TBI. She now uses specialized technology to measure the brain’s responses to sound and speech in people with and without TBI. “The people in the study are so honest about how TBI affects their lives,” Vander Werff says. “I’ve learned a lot from their stories and hope this study will enable us to better help them.”

—Judy Holmes

Kathy Vander Werff

ASSESSING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

AARON BOWMAN OF CASTLE CREEK, NEW YORK, REMEMBERS spotting a deer in the headlights of his motorcycle last June, then hearing metal crunch and his helmet scrape the pavement as he slid some 150 feet down the road. His scrapes and bruises healed, but Bowman remains plagued by symptoms related to a severe concussion, including memory lapses and difficulties focusing on conversations and following complex instructions. His story is a familiar one to Kathy Vander Werff, a professor and auditory researcher in the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders at the College of Arts and Sciences. As
Maurice Harris

SHAPING SU’S NEXT GENERATION

WHEN MAURICE HARRIS G’89, G’02, THE UNIVERSITY’S new dean of undergraduate admissions, talks about experiences that have shaped his life, he can cover a lot of territory. He remembers what it’s like to be a newly minted graduate looking for that first big break in the job world. He discusses his fascination with commerce and the wealth creation process, recalling the excitement of working as a banker in Houston during the late ’80s oil and gas boom and then experiencing the bust. He talks about living in New Hampshire, where he rediscovered a love for the outdoors his father had instilled in him. And he talks about his times at Syracuse University as a graduate student, faculty member, and administrator. “You have these experiences in your life—especially if your life looks like a slalom course with all these twists and turns—that in the long run have a purpose,” Harris says.

Harris relishes where this path has brought him and plans to draw on his entrepreneurial mind-set and intimate knowledge of the University to lead the recruitment of the next generation of SU students. A Cincinnati native who majored in finance at Bowling Green State University, Harris first arrived on the Hill shortly after leaving Houston, with thoughts of becoming a city manager. He earned an M.P.A. degree from the Maxwell School and enrolled in the public administration doctoral program, but left for a position with the Government Finance Research Center in Washington, D.C., helping municipalities restructure their debts. Seeking a greater understanding of private sector principles, he returned to SU and earned a doctoral degree in business administration from the Whitman School. After teaching at Bentley University and the University of New Hampshire, he joined the Whitman School as a finance professor in 2005. “I had conversations with Peter Koveos, who’s a great guy and my faculty mentor, and he wanted to know if I was interested in coming back to teach,” Harris says. “Keep in mind I was thinking Atlanta or Chicago, but when I thought of Syracuse, I could only think of great times. I loved this place that much.”

Back he came and after three years on the faculty, he was appointed the school’s associate dean for graduate programs, a position that introduced him to recruitment and curriculum design. Harris pursued an active recruiting strategy, creating “Connect” events around the country that brought together prospective students, alumni, and faculty. With the support and encouragement of Whitman School Dean Melvin T. Stith G’73, G’78, Harris built up enrollment in the finance and accounting programs and saw the full-time M.B.A. program advance in national rankings. He also helped establish a master’s degree program in supply chain management that led to the creation of a joint master’s degree program with the U.S. Department of Defense. Among his Whitman experiences, Harris says international trips with students to such places as Dubai, Johannesburg, and Seoul helped him recognize the importance of students gaining a global perspective. “These trips gave our students the opportunity to see the world in a way that someone who is not from the U.S. sees the world,” he says. “For me, the trips solidified the need for these kinds of programs.”

Harris places great value on the role of faculty, knowing how influential they can be as mentors and in the recruiting process. During the past decade, undergraduate applications to SU have nearly doubled, reaching a record high of about 25,200 for admission this fall. As Harris surveys the competitive admissions landscape, he cites the idea of a “Blue Ocean Strategy,” one that emphasizes and builds on the University’s distinct qualities—its signature programs, the increasing number of interdisciplinary and niche programs, its history of innovation and diversity, and its commitment to access and affordability. He emphasizes the importance of sharing the University’s story with students and parents, believing that successfully choosing a college is about finding the proper fit. “We want students who understand why they want to be here and what it is that’s unique about Syracuse that makes this a good place for them,” he says. “It’s truly important for us, in Admissions, to ensure we create a campus environment that reflects the diversity of the world.”

—Jay Cox
A pioneer in inclusive education, Syracuse University continues to advance the rights of people with disabilities

BY CHRISTINE YACKEL
AUGUST JANKOWSKI ’46, L’48 was blinded in a hunting accident when he was a teenager. But that didn’t stop him from earning undergraduate and law degrees from Syracuse University, serving as president of his junior class, and presiding as a city court judge for 32 years. Jankowski’s success was due, in part, to SU’s commitment to open access for all students, no matter what their personal circumstances or life experiences may be. “Syracuse has a tradition of seeking to bring about change one life at a time, as well as on the broadest possible spectrum,” says Chancellor Nancy Cantor. “That distinctive legacy is particularly prominent in our long and proud history of public scholarship and activism in disability rights, including the recognition that people with disabilities bring with them a wealth of experiences, good and bad, that contribute to making SU a better and stronger institution.”

The number of students with disabilities enrolled at SU has increased steadily since Jankowski and his guide dog Lou attended class. This year, approximately 1,150 students registered with the Office of Disability Services, and nearly 800 students receive such services as note-taking, sign language interpreting, and text-to-voice course materials. Although all universities are legally required to provide these services, SU was an advocate for inclusive education—which welcomes and values difference—long before it was mandated by federal law. From establishing a special education department in the 1940s to creating a center for inclusive higher education today, Syracuse has earned a reputation for visionary leadership in

IN THE DOCUMENTARY
Wretches & Jabberers, Larry Bissonnette (second from left) and Tracy Thresher (right) share their thoughts on living with autism. The film was produced by School of Education Dean Douglas Biklen G’73.
the study and promotion of education for all students. “SU’s history in the field of disability is fascinating,” says Wendy Harbour, the Lawrence B. Taishoff Assistant Professor of Inclusive Higher Education, “from accommodating returning World War II veterans to advocating for deinstitutionalization and inclusive K-12 education, and now leading the way in offering full and equal participation in higher education for students with a wide range of disabilities.”

ROAD TO REFORM
Syracuse’s rise to national and international prominence in the field of disability began in 1946 with the creation of the Department of Education for Exceptional Children under the direction of William Cruickshank, a pioneer in the education of children with brain injuries, learning disabilities, and cerebral palsy. In 1966, Burton Blatt, dean of the School of Education from 1976 until his death in 1985, was heralded for publishing *Christmas in Purgatory*, a groundbreaking photographic exposé of the horrendous abuses of people with mental retardation who were locked away in institutions in this country. “Burt was an extremely moral person, and he couldn’t understand how human beings could let this happen to other human beings,” says Steven Taylor G’77, Centennial Professor of Disability Studies in the School of Education. “Like many reformers of his time, Burt was haunted by the Holocaust, and came to realize that we have a collective societal responsibility to provide better care for people with disabilities.”

Blatt didn’t think it was sufficient to only train teachers and study disability issues. He believed Syracuse University should also have a positive impact on the world by promoting progressive disability policies and advocating for change. “Burt used to say, ‘When Lincoln freed the slaves he didn’t command a study to see if the slaves would be better off free—he knew it was the morally right thing to do,’” Taylor says. “Acting on his vision of a fully inclusive society, Burt established the Center on Human Policy—the first institute in the nation to study and promote ways to deinstitutionalize people with disabilities and open K-12 schools to children who would otherwise be segregated in schools for the disabled.”

From its beginning in 1971, the Center on Human Policy put scholarship in action, starting the first group homes for people with mental retardation in Syracuse and advocating for school inclusion long before the term even existed. In fact, Blatt and his colleagues,...
Wolf Wolfensberger and Gunnar Dybwadare, are credited with popularizing such concepts as open settings, mainstreaming, normalization, and least restrictive environments in their efforts to describe a vision of society where people with disabilities are fully included—not merely accepted. “A lot of university centers define their mission as research, but we have never seen a contradiction between doing rigorous research and advocating for a fully inclusive society,” says Taylor, who joined the center as a graduate student and now serves as its director. Following the center’s successful efforts to close the Syracuse Developmental Center in 1998 and move its residents into the community, a Syracuse Herald-American editorial stated: “For decades, Syracuse University has been a source of enlightenment and energy in forging new paths to integrate people with disabilities into the mainstream. Its Center on Human Policy is a laboratory for progressive policies and practices that continues to have a national and international impact.”

Professor Douglas Biklen G’73, now dean of the School of Education, established the Facilitated Communication Institute in 1992 to research and promote a new method by which non-speaking children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities can learn to communicate by typing on a computer keyboard, with the ultimate goal of communicating unassisted. In 2004, the Institute on Communication and Inclusion, as the institute is now known, produced Autism is a World, an Academy Award-nominated film about a young woman whom everyone thought was severely retarded. But once she had a way to type on a keyboard without any help, people realized she was very competent, and she is now completing a bachelor’s degree in history. “It’s impossible to know what another person thinks or feels unless they have a way to express it,” Biklen says. “I’ve come to realize it’s important for us to presume a person is competent and then look for ways to help them overcome obstacles. That puts the burden on us as educators to come up with effective strategies.”

Around the time Biklen was researching new communication strategies for people with autism, the School of Education created the nation’s first inclusive teacher training program and a graduate program in disability studies. An undergraduate degree in special education, which concentrates on teaching methods and curriculum, is still offered, but the school has shifted toward inclusive teacher training, which focuses on finding ways for students with disabilities to be educated with their nondisabled peers. On the graduate level, the disability studies program brings together the social sciences and humanities to look at the cultural, political, economic, and social meaning of disability, social policy, and popular culture’s representation of disability as a form of difference. “We also have an
undergraduate minor in disability studies, and there’s great interest in creating an undergraduate major as well,” Biklen says. “It’s a good foundation for many professions, especially medicine and law.”

FULL PARTICIPATION
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a landmark piece of civil rights legislation that requires all colleges and universities to provide architectural, academic, and programmatic access to students with disabilities. SU established the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to address the daily challenges faced by students with a broad spectrum of physical, sensory, mental health, and learning disabilities. According to Stephen H. Simon G’71, director of ODS, so far this year, the office has administered 5,000 exams; produced nearly

RESEARCH: EXAMINING BARRIERS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

RESEARCHER: Professor Nancy Mudrick, School of Social Work, College of Human Ecology

PROJECT: Determining the physical accessibility of medical providers’ offices.

ISSUE: Despite sufficient documentation that the quality of health care for people with disabilities is negatively affected by physical and programmatic barriers in doctors’ offices, estimates that accurately depict the proportion of providers that offer full access to persons with disabilities don’t exist.

BACKGROUND: This finding was one of several lessons learned by Mudrick and a team of colleagues led by the Berkeley, California-based Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) in preparing the 2009 report, “The Current State of Health Care for People with Disabilities,” for the National Council on Disability. The absence of this information is significant because the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires doctors’ offices to provide equal access to medical services. The 2010 Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. health care reform) requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board to develop standards for accessible medical exam equipment, and the Department of Health and Human Services must collect data on the number of providers with accessible facilities and equipment.

ACCESS DATA: To address this information gap, Mudrick and DREDF colleagues—senior policy advisor Mary Lou Breslin, attorney Silvia Yee, and School of Social Work graduate research assistant Mengke Liang G’10—created what is perhaps the largest single dataset nationally on provider office access, with information on 2,389 provider sites serving more than one million Medicaid-insured patients in California. With support from a grant from the California Health Care Foundation, they obtained the data from five California-based Medicaid managed care plans that serve the elderly and people with disabilities and have voluntarily assessed the physical access of providers’ offices since 2006. Among their most disturbing findings: Only 8.4 percent of providers’ offices have height-adjustable examination tables, and only 3.6 percent have accessible scales. Consequently, many patients are examined seated in wheelchairs or lifted onto exam tables by inadequately trained nursing staff. Many others are never weighed. “Additionally, many patients with disabilities don’t seek treatment because of the access barriers, which is costly to the individual and to the health care system,” Mudrick says.

IMPACT: Mudrick, who has worked with DREDF for 14 years on evaluation and policy, and DREDF colleagues are using these findings to educate and enact policy. The state of California has decided that all Medicaid managed care plans will conduct on-site accessibility surveys of providers. The study’s findings influenced the structure of the new state instrument. Their findings also have been shared with the FDA. “We want to move national policy so that people with disabilities have equal access to quality health care,” Mudrick says.

—Michele J. Barrett

School of Social Work professor Nancy Mudrick (left) and colleague Mary Lou Breslin of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund demonstrate how an accessible scale works. Too few medical offices have such scales and other equipment that accommodate people with disabilities. Photo courtesy of Nancy Mudrick
one-half million pages of electronic and alternate formats of text for students who have difficulty accessing standard printed materials; provided note-taking assistance in more than 800 classes; and hundreds of hours of sign language interpreting and computer-assisted real-time translation known as CART. “We also provide advocacy and counseling services that focus on the specific, disability-related needs of students,” Simon says. “Our goal is to promote inclusion of students within all aspects of university life.”

ODS frequently collaborates with departments and offices across the campus to work on issues related to architectural and technological accessibility, housing and residence life, career services, student activities, libraries, international study, legal mandates, and access to University events. “We encourage a ‘decentralized’ approach whereby University departments incorporate meeting the needs of people with disabilities into the services they provide on a daily basis,” Simon says. “Certainly there’s a learning curve involved, but as departments become more effective at providing accommodations universally, then the need for an office like ODS will diminish. That should be our goal.”

College of Human Ecology graduate student Amanda Fallon says she looked into what disability services were available before deciding to come to SU and found ODS very accommodating. Now in her second year of study in the Marriage and Family Therapy program, Fallon, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, is granted double time to take exams; a reader to help read exams; a scribe to write down exam answers; someone to take notes during classes; and all of her books on CD. “Syracuse is one of the most inclusive schools I looked at,” says Fallon, a member of the SU chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi honorary society. “Some of the other colleges don’t have note takers, and many of them told me to just bring a recorder to class. That would be difficult because then I have to listen to the entire lecture over again.” And when Fallon pointed out a problem with access, she was pleased with the University’s response. “I asked that automatic door openers be installed on the women’s restrooms in Lyman and Sims halls, where most of my classes are held,” she says. “They were put in really fast, so I was beyond thrilled.”

Not all disabilities are easily discernible. P.J. Alampi ’14, like many students, struggles with a hidden disability that needs to be addressed. “I’m reading disabled,” says Alampi, who is pursuing a double major in policy studies and broadcast journalism. “I read slower than the average student, so my first priority was to find a school with the academic program I wanted that could accommodate my learning disability. I knew Syracuse had good disability services, but I had no idea they were so extensive.” Alampi, who requires extra time on tests and uses books on tape, meets weekly with his ODS advisor to put together a plan that will enable him to achieve academic success. He is also learning how to advocate for himself. “At first I was nervous about reaching out to my professors because I didn’t think they would react well,” Alampi says. “But every professor I talked to was very supportive, and I realized it’s not just ODS that deals with disabilities—the entire campus is aware that students need help and are really
open to it. I’m grateful I have so much support.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law in 1990, is another legal milestone mandating an end to discrimination against individuals with disabilities, and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, originally passed in 1975, was reauthorized in 2004 as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide educational services to the more than 6.5 million children with disabilities nationwide. However, laws do not automatically ensure compliance or educate the public. In 1980, the College of Law created the Public Interest Law Firm to offer free representation to people with disabilities who face discrimination. The firm, now known as the Disability Rights Clinic, offers law students opportunities to work with people with disabilities who have pressing legal problems that are not being adequately addressed.

Law professor Michael Schwartz G’06, director of the Disability Rights Clinic, says he and law students Renee Yaworsky L’12 and Joseph Juhn L’12 are particularly proud of a recent case. An elderly deaf woman, who was a resident of a local nursing home for the last seven years, retained the clinic to contest the facility’s failure to provide her with effective communication access under state and federal law. “The nursing home failed to provide our 80-year-old client with meaningful access to social events, games, lectures, and outings,” says Schwartz, who is deaf. “We tried to convince them to do the right thing, but it was turning into a battle royale. So instead of suing the local nursing home, we were able to get our client into a facility in Columbus, Ohio, where the residents are all deaf and the staff can sign. My students and I feel absolutely wonderful that our client has a new life in a facility where she can communicate and make new friends. We feel blessed to have been a part of such a positive transformation in a person’s life.”

FORWARD MOMENTUM

Burton Blatt’s legacy continues to grow and evolve through the efforts of dedicated students, faculty, and staff who advocate tirelessly for a more inclusive world. For example, School of Education professors George Theoharis and Julie Causton-Theoharis created the Schools of Promise initiative, which works with teaching and administrative teams in two Syracuse schools—Salem Hyde Elementary and Roberts K-8—to rearrange the resources at hand so all children have an inclusive education in a general classroom setting with their peers. As a testament to the success of the Schools of Promise philosophy, the New York State Education Department Office of Special Education named Salem Hyde a model school for inclusive special education delivery that will now mentor other schools in need of assistance or intervention with implementing inclusive practices. The local chapter of Say Yes to Education, which offers comprehensive support services to increase graduation rates for Syracuse city school students, has shown interest in the Schools of Promise success and has discussed how to take the initiative district wide.

“We’ve found that if you include the students with the most challenging disabilities in the general classroom, behavior problems improve and class achievement goes up.”

— Professor George Theoharis

Schools of Promise

As an expansion of the work of the Center on Human Policy, the School of Education, the College of Law, and the College of Human Ecology created the Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies in 2004. Co-directed by Taylor and law professor Arlene Kanter, the center brings together a network of student organiza-
RESEARCH: MOBILE ADVOCACY

RESEARCHER: Professor Alan Foley, Department of Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation, School of Education

PROJECT: Developing iAdvocate, a free iPhone application (app) that serves as an information resource for parents of school-age children with disabilities.

FOCUS: Foley is an expert on assistive technologies, instructional and learning space design, and web accessibility/usability, with an expanding interest in mobile apps. iAdvocate is designed to provide readily accessible information that will help parents build advocacy skills, enhancing interactions with school professionals.

ISSUE: Parents of children with disabilities can be overwhelmed in interactions with teachers and other school professionals, especially if they are not familiar with their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a federal law that ensures services to children with disabilities, and with appropriate resources.

FEATURES: The app, which was released this spring, contains three sections: strategies, a compilation of approaches that parents can pursue as advocates; resources, which lists and, where possible, links to such references as laws, books, articles, web sites, video presentations, and organizations that provide information on inclusive education; and, responses, which features simulated interactions, such as replies to common statements made by school professionals regarding services and accommodations for children.

PARTNERS: Foley received support from and collaborated with the School of Education, the Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies (CHPLDS), and the SU Parent Advocacy Center (SUPAC), an affiliate of CHPLDS that promotes parental involvement in the inclusive education of their children with disabilities. Foley incorporated the project into his classes last spring and fall and, working with a team of School of Education graduate students, conducted focus group studies with SUPAC parents, developed content, designed a prototype, and used feedback to improve the final product.

IMPACT: The idea behind iAdvocate, Foley says, is to empower and engage parents, making them aware of their rights and a variety of resources. By expanding their knowledge, they are better prepared to partner with school professionals and work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for their children’s education. The app also connects parents to the SUPAC web site, allowing for more exchanges in information and ideas. Foley plans to create updates for the app and explore and develop other apps and models for cross-platform use. “We hope it can improve access and services for children with disabilities and provide help and support for their parents,” he says.

—Jay Cox

Professor Alan Foley and instructional technology graduate student Angela Cuda ’10 display information from Foley’s iAdvocate iPhone application in the Digital Video Analysis Lab at the School of Education. Foley built the lab with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Photo by Steve Sartori

tions, centers, academic programs, and research initiatives that seek to promote the rights of people with disabilities. “Disability issues have always had a strong presence in the School of Education, but we needed to create a cross-college collaboration to increase our visibility throughout the University,” Taylor says. “Our mission is to promote training programs, public education, and advocacy efforts on behalf of, and with, people with disabilities.” Taylor and Kanter also developed a unique joint degree program that enables a student to earn a law degree and a master’s degree in disability studies at the same time.

Founded in 2005, the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) was another leap forward in bringing visibility and new perspectives to disability issues locally, nationally, and internationally (see page 26). Under the direction of University Professor Peter Blanck, BBI has assembled a multidisciplinary team to identify problems, test solutions, contribute to law and public policy, and engage the community to develop public and private partnerships that advance the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities. BBI is creating new models
HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

The Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education Works to Involve All Students with Disabilities in the College Experience

WENDY HARBOUR BELIEVES PEOPLE WITH SO-called “intellectual disabilities” can do much more than expected, if given the opportunity. And as executive director of the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, she is putting that belief into practice. “Our work at the Taishoff Center is exciting because most students with Down syndrome, Rett syndrome, autism, or some other type of disability that may affect abstract reasoning, just haven’t had the right set of services or supports to show us what they know,” says Harbour, the Lawrence B. Taishoff Assistant Professor for Inclusive Higher Education. “Access to higher education is like getting a second chance.”

Inspired by their daughter, Jackie, who has Down syndrome, Laurie Bean Taishoff ’84 and Robert P. Taishoff ’86 made a $1 million commitment in 2009 to establish the center in the School of Education. Named in honor of Jackie’s grandfather, Lawrence Taishoff, who formed a special bond with her from the day she was born, the center follows two teaching and research tracks: one relates to students with intellectual disabilities who in the past were not even considered for higher education; the other is geared toward helping students deal with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. “We are very proud of Syracuse University and the innovative leadership role it has taken to support opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities,” says Robert Taishoff, a member of SU’s Board of Trustees.

Most parents of students with intellectual disabilities aren’t aware that college is an option. Harbour is collaborating with the coordinators of two SU programs that allow students with intellectual disabilities to audit courses and participate in campus activities: OnCampus, offered through the Syracuse City School District, is for students ages 18 to 21 who are still in high school; Access, under the auspices of the Onondaga Community Living agency, is for students 21 years and older who register for courses through University College. “It’s kind of cool because participants meet with their advisors, receive accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, and choose their courses, just like a typical college student,” Harbour says. “I’d like to create a formal certificate program for students who audit classes to show they’ve had some college experience, even though they don’t have a college degree.”

Another important focus of Harbour’s work at the Taishoff Center is to promote the adoption of universal design in learning strategies among instructors and administrators to provide for the maximum diversity of students. In universal design, courses are structured so that students have options to demonstrate what they’ve learned in different ways. “If you’re not particularly good at taking tests, but it has nothing to do with a disability, it would be great to be in a class where you could choose to do a presentation or to write an essay instead,” says Harbour, who is deaf. “With universal design in learning, flexibility is built into the planning of the curriculum, so no one falls behind in their coursework.”

Harbour says the field of disability rights has lost many prominent leaders in the last few years, and it helps her to know there is a new generation coming up. To ensure a smooth transition from one generation to the next, she is busy organizing a national leadership conference for undergraduates with disabilities to be held at SU in August. Harbour sees the conference, Disabled & Proud: A Call to Lead, as a way to instill activism in the next group of leaders—on campus and beyond—who will take the disability rights movement to the next level. “If they’ve figured out a way to get to Syracuse for the conference, they’re probably already leaders,” she says. “I want them to come here, feel a sense of community, and add some new tools to their toolbox as change agents. And then I want them to go back to their campuses and shake things up a bit.”

Historically, college is a time when many students—with or without disabilities—come to realize what needs to be done to create a more inclusive world. Undergraduates in Harbour’s disability studies classes grumble that now they can’t help but see disability everywhere they go. “I just laugh because making students more sensitive to disability is exactly what we’re trying to do,” she says. “I don’t care if they go into anything related to disability, but college is the gatekeeper of the professions, so when these students become teachers or corporate executives, they will be more comfortable with disability. I know our work at the Taishoff Center is going to have a nice ripple effect, and that really gets me excited.”

—Christine Yackel

Professor Wendy Harbour (left), executive director of the Taishoff Center, discusses an issue with students.
of inclusive entrepreneurship in collaboration with county government, community groups, and the Whitman School of Management. BBI, for instance, partnered with Whitman professor Mike Haynie, who established the Entrepreneurial Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) to provide wounded U.S. soldiers with the skills and knowledge to start their own businesses. Launched in 2007, Whitman’s EBV has expanded to include six universities nationwide, offering training in entrepreneurship and small business management. EBV is recognized as a national model for economically empowering veterans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The most recent advancement in the disability rights movement at SU is the creation of the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, established in 2009 (see page 22). The center conducts research and provides support to college students with intellectual disabilities who traditionally were not considered for higher education, as well as students with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia. “Other centers in higher education are focusing just on students with specific types of disabilities because there is such a need,” says Professor Wendy Harbour, executive director of the Taishoff Center. “We’re the only center in the country looking at students with disabilities—including intellectual disabilities—at the college level in a more general sense.”

THE INCLUSIVE CAMPUS

Working toward a more inclusive society is the right thing—and practical thing—to do. Based on current estimates, approximately 24 percent of SU alumni have a family member with a disability; 18 percent of students on campus will become temporarily disabled during their four-year college careers; Baby Boomers will experience a variety of late-life disabilities in unprecedented numbers; and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense project that 30 percent of veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq—2.5 million to date—will have enduring physical and/or psychological disabilities. Implementing universal design principles, which refer to barrier free buildings, products, environments, and curricula that are inherently accessible to everyone, is the best way to avoid costly retrofitting and creates a beneficial environment for all people during all stages of life (see page 29). Examples of universal design are curb cuts and sidewalk ramps, which are essential for wheelchair users, but are also convenient for individuals pushing baby strollers, making deliveries, and riding bicycles. And with an unemployment rate of 65 percent among Americans with disabilities, ensuring that postsecondary education is universally accessible is cost effective as well.

Brian McLane ’69 was born with cerebral palsy at a time when most children with disabilities were institutionalized. His parents struggled to raise him at home and fought for his right to attend public high school. He continued his education at Syracuse University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in speech and dramatic art. He recalls asking his counselor why the vocational rehabilitation program was willing to pay for his education. “My counselor said that without a degree the likelihood of my ever going to work was nil, so at least by giving me an education, they were giving me an opportunity to have a career,” says McLane, founder and president of Paradigm Solutions, a company that works with clients, including SU, to move beyond compliance. “The disabled child becomes the disabled adult who won’t be able to depend on mom and dad forever. SU is poised to play a critical role in helping that child gain independence in the most effective and humane way.”

Higher education is a proven pathway to independence and success—particularly for someone with a
CELEBRATING DISABILITY

The Beyond Compliance Coordinating Committee Enhances Campus Culture

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY TODAY HAVE never known a world without legislation that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. But for members of the Beyond Compliance Coordinating Committee (BCCC), laws are only a starting point. “The mission of our group is to advocate for a campus culture that doesn’t view disability as a deficit, but sees it as part of the diversity on campus,” says Juliann Anesi, a doctoral student in the Teaching and Leadership program in the School of Education. “There are many differences among the student population as well as faculty and staff, and all of their needs should be accommodated without resorting to lawsuits to make change. If we start to make small changes along the way with ideas and cultural values, everyone benefits.”

BCCC was formed in 2001 when a group of graduate students realized a visually impaired student in their class was having trouble getting course materials in a format he could use to complete assignments on time. The students saw this as a much bigger issue, so they started campaigning for more accessibility campus-wide. “It’s important to realize that not all laws meet everybody’s needs,” says Andrew Bennett, who is studying for a Ph.D. in Cultural Foundations of Education. “Just because we have legislation doesn’t mean we immediately have equality—it’s something we have to work at all the time.”

Throughout the academic year, BCCC provides campus-wide educational programming that supports a positive climate for disability. The group brings in guest speakers, artists, comedians, circus performers, and poets; gives presentations on universal design in learning; and holds an annual film festival to promote a culture of disability on campus. BCCC hosted Disability in an Intersectional Lens: a Conference of Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies last fall, and sponsored a wheelchair basketball tournament in March. Committee members have been working with Liat Ben-Moshe G’11 on the disability cultural center initiative, and with Professor Wendy Harbour of the Taishoff Center on a national leadership conference for undergraduates with disabilities to be held at SU in August.

And Alex Umstead, a first-year doctoral student in the Cultural Foundations of Education program, is heading up a project to hold an event this fall about the neurodiversity movement, which advocates for societal acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum as normal, rather than having a condition needing to be cured.

BCCC is a strong and recognizable presence on campus for promoting a culture of inclusion, but the group doesn’t represent all students. Although open to everyone, BCCC membership is drawn mainly from graduate students in the School of Education. Kiel Moses, a first-year doctoral student in the Cultural Foundations in Education program, thinks that is because undergraduates have a lot of fear and apprehension about connecting with their disability. Bennett says many American teenagers just want to fit in with their peers, so the last thing a first-year college student may want to do is self identify as disabled because it’s just not cool. “I can attest to this,” Umstead says. “Some students who are on the mild end of the autism spectrum can feel pressured to overcome social skill obstacles. It took me a while to fit in, and I think it would have been nice to have a group like BCCC to go to as a freshman.”

In addition to BCCC, other student groups—including the Disability Law Society, the Students United for Visual Access Today, and the American Institute of Architecture Students Freedom By Design initiative—work together and share ideas that will bring about systemic change. “Hopefully, more groups that meet the needs of undergraduate students will form in the future,” says Ashley Taylor, BCCC president. “As a freshman you may be just starting to realize that the label you’ve been given in high school isn’t who you really are. It can be very powerful for a student to come to Syracuse and see that our campus celebrates disability.”

—Christine Yackel
disability who may have fewer career options. With that in mind, SU has redoubled its commitment to attract students with a wide range of physical and intellectual disabilities by providing the supportive and nurturing environment they need to thrive once they get here. “Like everyone else, students with disabilities are looking for a good educational experience,” says Eric Spina, vice chancellor and provost. “We hope they will choose to come to Syracuse because we offer outstanding academic programs and a welcoming campus community. Increased enrollment of students with disabilities will happen naturally if we lower all barriers and work to make our campus more inclusive and accessible.”

In 2005, Chancellor Cantor set up a task force to identify ways the University can bring the vision of what a truly inclusive campus should be into reality. The task force recommended promoting the University’s commitment to disability as an integral aspect of diversity; creating a culture of inclusion by recruiting, hiring, and retaining more faculty and staff with disabilities; making a long-term financial commitment—as part of the current $1 billion capital campaign and beyond—to ensure a fully inclusive and accessible campus; and establishing a disability cultural center that would function as an umbrella under which social, cultural, and educational programming related to disability could take place.

Thomas Wolfe G’02, senior vice president and dean of student affairs, says he was intrigued by the idea of the center—which would be housed within the Division of Student Affairs—because it builds on existing resources to provide a place for students to hang out and share ideas and experiences. “Ideally, the center would be situated in a highly visible central location on campus with full-time staffing,” Wolfe says. “I’m of the philosophy that if you can’t describe it, you can’t fund it. So let’s get busy describing it.”

To move the proposed disability cultural center forward, the Division of Student Affairs, the School of Education, and the Taishoff Center engaged Liat Ben-Moshe G’11, a doctoral candidate and instructor in sociology, disability studies, and women’s studies, to coordinate planning for the center and create momentum for its implementation. Ben-Moshe looked at other resource center models, collaborated with a variety of campus constituencies, put together a board of directors to advise on programming and logistics, and will have a budget and implementation plan in place by the end of the academic year. “The cultural center is a way of making SU more responsive to not just the needs of students with disabilities, but also the need for a disability-friendly culture,” Ben-Moshe says. “Our vision is that the center will be a hub of activity surrounding disabilities in a proactive way, and that it will help reduce the stigma around disability—it’s all about social change.”

The disability cultural center is an important step toward creating a campus environment that is comfortable with disability. “So often disability evokes feelings of pity and great sympathy, and we think about people overcoming their disability rather than society changing the impediments that it has imposed on them through public policy or other kinds of practices,” Biklen says. “A family who has a child with a disability figures out ways for that child to be included in all aspects of family life—the disability is just seen as part of what is normal. We want to create a similar environment at SU where students with disabilities feel like they are fully participating members of a caring campus community.”

SU alumni and friends are invited to help shape and support a new comprehensive campaign to keep Syracuse at the vanguard of disability rights and inclusion. For more information, contact David Murray at 315-443-5178 or drmurray@syr.edu.
The Burton Blatt Institute reaches from campus to around the globe in its efforts to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities

By Anthony Adornato

The Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University provided financial support for the project, one of BBI’s many initiatives aimed at infusing awareness about disabilities across disciplines. “BBI is working to make sure inclusion is a way of thinking and a component of the dialogue, education, and change across campus,” says University Professor Peter Blanck, BBI chairman. “BBI is shedding light on the issues facing people with disabilities and helping students, among others, see connections to their own lives.”

Stein’s experience—and the lasting impression it made—is a case in point. Elvis Avdic ’11 and other students also recognize those “connections.” When Avdic signed up for Inclusive Entrepreneurship Consulting, a course developed by BBI that has enrolled 140 students in the past two years, he never imagined it would provide an indelible moment of his college career. As part of the course, Avdic served as a consultant for a semester, using his entrepreneurial know-how to help a Central New York resident with a disability launch his own business. “You get caught up in your own life, not realizing the challenges people with disabilities face,” says Avdic, a marketing management major. “As I enter the business world after graduation, I will definitely think more consciously about disability issues—hiring people with disabilities, for example. This wouldn’t be a priority, if I hadn’t taken the class.”

Officially launched in 2005 at SU, BBI builds on the legacy of Burton Blatt, former dean of the School of Education and a pioneering disability rights scholar, to challenge thinking and attitudes to better the lives of people with disabilities. “In only five years, BBI has become perhaps the premier disability institute globally focusing on advancing the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities,” says Blanck, who joined the SU community in 2005 at the invitation of Chancellor Nancy Cantor to oversee BBI. “Along with Chancellor Cantor’s commitment to advancing the participation of people with disabilities, BBI was founded from the generosity of the Hammerman family and their vision to continue the legacy of their beloved family member, Dr. Burton Blatt.”
The first multidisciplinary institute of its kind located in and affiliated with a major university, BBI has experienced tremendous growth, both in its staff—which includes alumni from Newhouse, Maxwell, Education, Information Studies, and Law—and in the scope and impact of its work. The institute now has a team of more than 60 staff members and offices in Syracuse, New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and Tel Aviv, as well as activities in Los Angeles. BBI has also hosted several international postdoctoral fellows, three of whom have gone on to faculty positions in Israel at the University of Haifa and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

A remarkable variety of projects has already been completed under BBI’s auspices. On campus, BBI collaborates with students and faculty and continues to expand its reach across myriad disciplines, including communications, architecture, engineering, and science and technology, putting ideas and research into action. For instance, through the Inclusive Entrepreneurship curriculum, a joint effort with the Whitman School of Management, people with disabilities have launched dozens of new businesses (see page 28). At the same time, the course’s innovative service-learning component provides invaluable lessons for students, such as Avdic. In 2010, BBI received a Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship in recognition of its development of the curriculum and commitment to engagement with the community. “We seize on the notion of Scholarship in Action very seriously,” Blanck says. “We take knowledge out of the classroom and apply it to build understanding and create positive change.”

This summer, school librarians will learn firsthand about this “positive change” and what it means for their communities. In partnership with the Center for Digital Literacy at the School of Information Studies (iSchool), BBI is launching a program that will enable pre-K-12 librarians across New York State to better serve students with disabilities. Through Project ENABLE, teams of school librarians, and special and general educators will attend intensive workshops, co-taught by BBI’s William Myhill, on awareness, inclusive program development, and accessible technology selection. The workshops will help librarians meet the library and information needs of students with disabilities, developing inclusive lesson plans and learning materials for their respective libraries. “BBI brings a unique perspective to this important issue and project,” says iSchool professor Ruth Small ’64, G’77, G’85, who manages Project ENABLE. “I can tell you it is a pleasure to work with the institute.”

The impact of BBI’s work extends beyond campus and the region. Across the country and around the world, BBI has gained a reputation as a problem solver and advocate for the full community participation of people with disabilities. Last year, through a partnership with the National Disability Institute’s Real Economic Impact Tour, BBI assisted more than 360,000 low-income citizens with disabilities nationwide in receiving more than $350 million owed them in tax refunds. This is just one step toward advancing their economic self-sufficiency, according to BBI executive director Michael Morris. In addition, with the emergence of new technologies, BBI is spearheading educational and legal advocacy efforts to change the practices of major companies to ensure their web sites and such devices as e-book readers are fully accessible. The visibility BBI brought to accessibility issues with e-readers gained significant media attention, influ-
BBI on THE WEB
bbi.syr.edu/
www.facebook.com/BurtonBlattInstitute
twitter.com/bbisyracuse

THROUGH THE START-UP NY PROGRAM, Barbara Janice established Max’s Barkery, offering all-natural, homemade dog treats.

FROM A DOG GROOMING AND DAY CARE service to a car repair garage, entrepreneurs with disabilities are making their mark in the Central New York business community, thanks to Start-Up NY, an innovative, first-of-its-kind program developed by the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI). “Starting my own eatery would not have been possible if it were not for the program,” says restaurateur Della Brown, who recently opened Tacoblicious in Syracuse. Armed with knowledge and skills acquired through Start-Up NY and a range of resources provided by the University’s Inclusive Entrepreneurship initiative, Brown transformed her business ideas into reality. “It has not only given me invaluable skills, but also the opportunity to improve the quality of my life,” she says.

Brown isn’t alone in achieving a dream. Since 2007, Start-Up NY—a partnership of BBI, the Whitman School of Management, and Onondaga County—has assisted 204 individuals with diverse disabilities in the creation of 48 new businesses. “Start-Up NY has become a model strategy for assisting people, including veterans, with diverse disabilities to become entrepreneurs,” says James Schmeling, BBI chief operating officer.

BBI managed the design and implementation of Start-Up NY on behalf of Onondaga County, which received a three-year, $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy to create the program. “The work accomplished by the Burton Blatt Institute reinforces our belief that, with the correct supports, all citizens can find their rightful place in our county’s economic fabric,” says County Executive Joanne M. Maironey ‘87, L’90.

BBI is now working with community partners to launch programs in other locations. “SU and its partners are replicating the Start-Up NY/Inclusive Entrepreneurship model in Manhattan, and it is being used as a model for similar initiatives throughout New York State and internationally,” says Gary Shaheen G’86, BBI senior vice president.

—Anthony Adornato
IN ISRAEL, THERE ARE DAILY concerns about safety and contingency planning for rapid response to emergencies. But for years, the emergency planning had a missing link: no evacuation protocols for people with disabilities. In what turned out to be a lifesaving endeavor, the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), in conjunction with the Israel Ministry of Social Affairs and Services, led efforts for emergency preparedness for Israelis with disabilities. “The project materials were used during a conflict to evacuate individuals with intellectual disabilities from a disability service provider hours before it was struck by a rocket,” says University Professor Peter Blanck, BBI chairman. “The evacuation saved lives.”

To assist in the protection and safety of Israelis with disabilities, BBI applied lessons from its involvement in U.S. emergency planning and response after Hurricane Katrina. A team of BBI and Israeli researchers developed a system of alerts and resource mapping. The partnership was facilitated by Professor Arie Rimmerman, the Richard Crossman Chair for Social Welfare & Planning at the School of Social Work, Social Welfare, and Health Studies at the University of Haifa in Israel. “As a major step in building global relationships, in 2006 BBI and the Israel Ministry of Social Affairs and Services signed an historic agreement to collaborate to expand the scope and reach of disability rights,” Rimmerman says.

Along with the emergency preparedness guidelines, the partnership paved the way for expanded policy and services for people with disabilities in Israel. To conduct ongoing activities, an Israeli nonprofit organization, The Center of Innovation and Advancement of Quality of Life of People with Disabilities, was established, composed of leaders from BBI and others from SU, as well as Israelis. “BBI is collaborating globally to share and develop ideas for improving the quality of life for people with disabilities,” says Michael Morris, BBI executive director.

—Anthony Adornato

Universalizing Universal Design

JUST AS PROPONENTS OF “GREEN” BUILDING concepts have seen their construction standards become commonplace, the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) and key partners are leading an unprecedented effort to build support for the voluntary adoption of universal design (UD). The UD approach advocates that all built environments and products be useable by all people.

In 2008, BBI chairman Peter Blanck, University Trustee Joshua H. Heintz ’69, and his law partner, William J. Gilbert Jr., founded the Global Universal Design Commission (GUDC) to create UD standards, consensus-based, innovative performance guidelines that go beyond minimal compliance with law and provide ease of use to all. The GUDC standards are modeled on the green standards for the built environment, designating a level of accreditation for a project based on its usability, safety, health, and inclusiveness.

GUDC (www.globaluniversaldesign.org/) brings together some of the most knowledgeable and influential leaders in UD, including four current and former presidential appointees, architects, and faculty from the University of Buffalo’s Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access. Commission members—including honorary chairman Luis Benigno Gallegos Chiriboga, Ecuador’s ambassador to the United States—are leading efforts to accelerate the adoption of the standards worldwide.

“At the ambassador’s initiation, Professor Blanck and I met with Ecuador’s vice president, Lenin Moreno Garcés, and Ecuador became an early GUDC adopter,” Heintz says.

BBI and GUDC are collaborating with many university, corporate, and government leaders to promote adoption of the standards. For instance, Procter & Gamble is partnering with GUDC to focus on implementing the standards in its built environment and workforce policies.

The SU College of Law’s new building committee is considering using the GUDC standards. Destiny USA has adopted the standards for its tenants, and the Seneca Nation, located in Western New York, has agreed to adopt the standards for new construction, according to Blanck. Last fall, at a global conference on technology and innovation for people with disabilities in Sao Paolo, Brazil, Heintz gave the keynote address on “Universalizing Universal Design.” Brazil is considering adoption of the standards to guide development for its 2014 World Cup facilities and its 2016 Olympics and Paralympics.

“Brazil’s interest is a very exciting development,” Blanck says, “and we hope it will bring international attention to the importance of GUDC standards.”

—Anthony Adornato

Photo by John Dowling
ARTIE ABRAMS, A CHARACTER ON THE hit television series *Glee*, uses a wheelchair. Kevin McHale, the actor who plays him, does not. When *Glee*’s producers were criticized for not casting a paraplegic in the role, they responded by adding a new character, Betty Jackson, a cheerleader who has Down syndrome, and casting Lauren Potter, an actor with Down syndrome, in the role. School of Education Dean Douglas Biklen, G’73, a documentary producer whose 2004 film, *Autism is a World*, was nominated for an Academy Award, recalls that not long ago there were almost no characters with disabilities in popular drama, and the few who came along rarely strayed from predictable stereotype. “People with disabilities only appeared to highlight the good qualities of the story’s main character, who was not a disabled person,” he says. “The effect of seeing a character with a disability can be positive or negative depending on how it is done, but certainly there have been some excellent portrayals in recent years.”

Biklen’s most recent film, *Wretches & Jabberers*, was released in April. It follows two men with autism, Tracy Thresher, a political activist, and Larry Bissonnette, an artist, as they travel around the world advocating the rights of people with disabilities (*wretchesandjabberers.org*). Drama professor Elizabeth Ingram is encouraged to see people with disabilities emerging from the shadows to take their turns at center stage, although she was personally way ahead of the curve on this. Since its founding in 1992, Ingram has been faculty advisor to the Young Actors Workshop, a pioneering community theater group where people with disabilities learn acting and other theatrical skills from undergraduates in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). “Seeing these actors helps the public understand that you don’t have to be frightened of people or conditions you’re not familiar with,” she says. “No human being should be hidden. People with disabilities are part of our community and should be involved in the community. Somebody out of the ordinary, by nature, has something out of the ordinary to say, expanding everyone’s knowledge and sensitivity.” Evidence of this is abundant in *People Like Me*, a new documentary film that explores the workshop’s weekly sessions at Syracuse Stage. Filmmakers Larry Elin ’73, Steve Davis, and Douglas Quin, members of the Newhouse School faculty, provide glimpses of extraordinary moments of personal expression and communication between workshop members and SU students as they prepare for the group’s annual stage production. “Over time, we saw people who had been quietly standing in corners become effusive and dramatic and very much part of the group,” Elin says. “You could see them coming out of their shells and joining the drama students, whose love of performing is reflected in their every movement.”

The Young Actors Workshop has sparked inquiries from a fair number of universities and organizations, and *People Like Me* may help make the Syracuse program a national model. “Of course it’s wonderful to see people expressing themselves and to see the reactions of family members who may not have thought it possible,” Ingram says. “The benefits to students are less obvious. They become better students by teaching what they learn. Some of our graduates make teaching or drama therapy part of their professional careers.”

*People Like Me* and *Wretches & Jabberers* are characterized by explicit images of people with disabilities asserting themselves, politically, artistically, and socially. In *Losing It* (2000), faculty filmmaker Sharon Greytak (see page 11) shifts emphasis to neglect and isolation. Greytak, who uses a wheelchair, sets out on a trip around the world to interview people with disabilities. She encounters disturbing results before reaching her first destination. Detained for no apparent reason while clearing customs in Moscow, she offers this in her voiceover...
narration: “I knew immediately that none of them had ever spoken to a disabled person before.... There was that pure sense in the voices of only seeing my exterior. I was an invalid to them. Special baggage—that was my identity.” Each of the people she interviews has a special tale of struggle, but while conditions may vary among countries, a constant emerges: The dignity of people with disabilities is not a priority on the agenda of contemporary society.

Biklen believes media representations play a role in creating a more inclusive society. “It’s hard for many people to imagine that someone like Tracy or Larry could have a sense of humor or personal feelings,” he says. “Letting people see them on screen is the most effective way I know of showing what they’re capable of.” KC Duggan, managing director of the Syracuse International Film Festival, agrees, and is proud Wretches & Jabberers was screened at the festival’s annual Disabilities in Cinema program last year. “Film is one of the greatest educational tools, and films on disability and disability rights help people understand the issues,” Duggan says. “We all struggle with our differences, and films allow us to see the struggles of others in human terms.”

—David Marc
Strengthening a Culture of Philanthropy

John Chapple offers his thoughts on ensuring SU’s future as he retires as chairman of the Board of Trustees

BY DAVID MARC

JOHN H. CHAPPLE ’75, CHAIRMAN OF THE SYRACUSE University Board of Trustees since 2008, knows his way around governing bodies. He has had a place at the table on a dozen of them, ranging from regional communications companies and nonprofit foundations to such household-name enterprises as Yahoo, the NBA, and Nextel Partners, the telecom giant he founded and chaired before negotiating its multibillion-dollar sale to Sprint. Chapple is the first SU board chairman with a background in the new communication technologies that have transformed the way people organize their lives. When he steps down as chairman this spring, he will have transformed the board in ways that strengthen its capacity for action in the world he helped to shape.

Throughout his chairmanship, Chapple encouraged trustees to support the University with both financial resources and the know-how to use those resources in service to students. The 20 new trustees appointed during Chapple’s tenure have made the group younger and more representative of the University’s national and international constituencies, but the legacy Chapple is counting on is more than a demographic shift. “As a group, the trustees are not only generous with their money, but they bring us a wider definition of generosity,” says Chapple, who will be honored with a doctor of humane letters degree at Commencement 2011. “They add value to their dollars by contributing ideas and techniques, and keeping focus on the development of the projects they make possible. They set the stage for a philanthropic overhaul that is already under way. The long-range goal, as I see it, is to create a culture of philanthropy among the trustees in which the greatest satisfaction is gained by lowering the financial burden on every student who impresses us enough to be admitted. This—and not raising tuition—is the way to build a great university. Just look at some our most spectacular recent successes.”

At no loss for examples, Chapple points first to the satellite campus established by SU in Southern California to provide direct learning and acculturation experiences for students aspiring to careers in entertainment and the region’s other world-class industries. Building on the success of existing alumni-supported programs, such as the annual Hollywood Seminar during winter break and Aaron Sorkin [’83] Week during spring break, the Los Angeles Semester offers undergraduates extended immersion experiences as interns at production studios, talent agencies, and related businesses while giving them a taste of real life in the fabled city. The L.A. Semester was shaped and financed by an impressive network of SU West Coast show business alums led by Trustee Rob Light ’78, a partner in Creative Artists Agency. Trustee George Hicker ’68, who heads the Cardinal Company, a Southern California real estate firm, has been instrumental in securing facilities for the L.A. Semester and the growing SU immersion programs in architecture, sport management, and the visual arts. “Trustees and other alumni have been involved every step of the way in L.A., and in some cases they’ve even gotten their friends to pitch in,” says Chapple, who lives a neat 1,200-mile drive up the coast near Seattle. “I’ve been down there several times, and all I’ve heard from students are rave reviews about the internships and the contacts they’re making. L.A. is already being used as a model for planning new programs for our students at other locations around the country.”

Chapple is also excited about the Dubai summer engineering internship program, the brainchild of Trustee Abdallah Yabroudi ’78, G’79, who heads the Dubai Construction Company, a leading force in the eye-popping urban growth of the city, located near the mouth of the
John has been an exceptional leader for the board and University, and personally an extraordinary partner for me. John’s vision, insight, and energy—qualities that made him so successful in the corporate and sports worlds—have helped move the University forward in so many ways. John’s focus on growing a culture of philanthropy all across the SU family, along with his own personal generosity, has been crucial to the success of our most ambitious fund-raising campaign ever. I am thankful for having the opportunity to benefit from John’s advice, guidance, and most especially his friendship.

— Nancy Cantor, Chancellor and President

Gulf of Arabia in the United Arab Emirates. Chapple expresses special admiration for Yabroudi’s inclusion of a cultural component that brings students into contact with local families and regional history. “It’s not the kind of thing you expect to see in an engineering internship program,” Chapple says. “Of course, it’s just the kind of thing that’s needed.”

The sport management program, founded with the gifts and guidance of Trustee David Falk ’72—the sports “super agent” who practically invented the profession—provokes special interest from Chapple, who has headed sports franchises in both the NBA and NHL. “The quality of students attracted to sport management is remarkable—the average G.P.A. breaks north of 3.8,” Chapple says. “David and his wife, Rhonda [’74], have just come forward with a gift of $15 million to the program’s home college, which is a great example of following through on a successful project to benefit the entire University.” In honor of the gift and the Falks’ many contributions to SU, the University announced the College of Human Ecology will be known as the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. Chapple recalls meeting Falk in 1995, under somewhat different circumstances. “I was a part-owner of the Vancouver Grizzlies basketball team at the time and I was trying to coax Michael Jordan, who David represented, to return to professional basketball in a Vancouver uniform,” he says. “I knew then and there: David is the kind of guy you want to have on your side.”

Chapple’s most insistent concern as board chairman has been for students and families facing the challenges of paying for higher education. It’s an interest he came by early in life, growing up in Potsdam in northern New York State. Chapple’s father, John D. Chapple, was an admissions officer at Clarkson University who at one point was credited with recruiting three quarters of that school’s alumni. His mother, Helen Chapple, worked for Clarkson as a fund-raiser and then served as director of college relations for SUNY Potsdam. All five Chapple children attended Potsdam Central High School and went on to private colleges. “My dad was at Clarkson for 25 years, until he passed away, and my mother was at Clarkson and Potsdam State for 15 years, so I had no illusions that...”
leading the kind of intelligent, successful achievers who make up the Board of Trustees would be a walk in the park,” he says. “But I did have the advantage of knowing where they—and I—could do the most good. Frankly, it’s all about the kids—the students—you’ve got to remain focused on them. How do you nurture them to have great lives, great careers, and great families? Do you tie another tuition raise to their feet, or do you dig a little deeper to create conditions that allow the University to evolve philanthropically? Speaking for myself and for many of my colleagues on the board and in the administration, evolution is the answer.”

When Chapple gets on the subject of putting student needs first, he often mentions David C. Smith ’66, a now-retired SU administrator who instilled that value in him. “I met David when he worked with my father at Clarkson, before he came to Syracuse,” Chapple says. “He was always there to help me, my brother Paul ['89], and my son John Ross ['04] navigate our ways through college. He did the same for generations of SU students for more than 35 years.”

To stimulate the philanthropic evolution Chapple wants for SU, he believes trustees must expand their leadership role, a process that begins with openness and engagement. Presiding over one of the few governing bodies that already includes undergraduate and graduate student representatives at meetings, Chapple invited in representatives from two more constituencies—faculty members and deans—making the SU board perhaps the most transparent in American higher education. He also strived to define trusteeship beyond the board’s semi-annual meetings, encouraging board members to meet with students, faculty, and administrators so they can familiarize themselves with aspirations and put their resources and expertise to work in achieving them. He also advocates periodic reviews of trustee activity, a break with tradition that has been implemented at such schools as Vanderbilt and Penn. “This is not an honorific board, and ‘trustee,’ despite the sound of the word, is not an honorific title,” Chapple says. “We are a working group, and we’re working on behalf of thousands of young people who are trying to get an education and a start in life.”

Chapple’s eagerness to set new standards for trusteeship is borne of pride in what Syracuse has accomplished and fueled by optimism about taking the University to the next level. “At a time when many schools are struggling—especially state universities, which are feeling the heat of state budget deficits across the country—the quality of applicants to Syracuse has never been higher and our student body never more diverse,” he says. “That’s exactly why this is the best time for the private sector to step up its giving.”

Chapple has certainly led by example in this regard. His gifts to the University include the Chapple Family Professorship of Citizenship and Democracy in the Maxwell School; the Robin Toner ['76] Endowment (named for the late New York Times reporter, a classmate, peer-mentor, and longtime friend), which includes student fellowships and other features; and a cash gift that sped up completion of the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center by a year. As a member of the search committee for a new head football coach, Chapple helped bring Doug Marrone ‘91 back to campus, an accomplishment he doesn’t mind discussing. “It was a rigorous process, but the outcome was great,” he says. “We wound up with a wonderful football coach who exceeded our expectations.”

After the stock market tanked in 2008, Chapple learned that changed family circumstances posed direct threats to the ability of some SU students to stay in school. The global economic crisis got
personal, and he was right there with a six-figure donation to the Syracuse Responds campaign (“Keep ‘em ‘Cuse”), an initiative that succeeded in providing increased financial aid to more than 400 students. When Chancellor Nancy Cantor helped initiate the Syracuse Say Yes to Education program, Chapple could hardly say no to a program that creates a new opportunity for students in Syracuse city schools to go to college. He quickly stepped up and provided support.

When it comes to consistency and loyalty, the record shows Chapple does more than talk the talk. He has personally given more than $8 million to SU. Back before he had six- and seven-figure checks to give, there were two- and three-figure checks from the recent college graduate who was just getting started with his own career and family. He believed in Syracuse then and he believes in Syracuse now. “This March, just before the Big East tournament, I was having dinner with a buddy who went to Cornell,” Chapple says. “He told me Cornell has close to a billion now, I told him I’d bet him a buck that Syracuse catches Cornell by the end of the decade. ‘Are you serious?’ he asked. I told him I’m always serious about reaching for the stars.”

When I learned that Robin Toner and John Chapple had been classmates, I told John of my desire to honor her memory in some way, perhaps with an annual lecture series or a journalism competition. He generously provided a lead gift of $100,000, which allowed us to go out and raise new funds aimed at creating an endowment to support these and other projects in Robin’s name. This effort is under way and our goal is to raise $1 million. Although John is not a Newhouse alum, he was supportive of Newhouse’s needs and aspirations throughout his term on the board. He went out of his way to do what he could for each school and college.

**Lorraine Branham**
Dean, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

John’s amazing support for SU Athletics will be felt forever. He is one of the reasons the program is having its best success in history. I thank him for being a mentor to Athletics and for being a true friend. His impact on this institution—as it has been on the world—is significant. Cheers for his brilliant leadership.

He changed the culture of Syracuse University for the better. I’ll always want him for a teammate.

**Daryl Gross**
Director of Athletics

John was as hardworking and focused as a student as he has been later in life as an entrepreneur. While grinding out a good SU education, he still showed concern for others and the world around him. Later, his good fortune allowed him to express that concern in myriad ways—always without self-serving flash—demonstrating quietly what I always knew: John Chapple is a down-to-earth guy of character, not just industry.

**Robert D. McClure**
Chapple Family Professor of Citizenship and Democracy Emeritus

My thanks to John Chapple for being a part of the process that has made the new basketball center a true success for many generations to come.

**Carmelo Anthony**
New York Knicks

ON CHAPPLE

John Chapple is an amazing guy in so many ways. Prior to joining SU’s Board of Trustees, he had a fascinating (not to mention, highly successful) career that stretched from Syracuse city government to heading the Vancouver Grizzlies—plus running some big telecoms somewhere in between. This eclectic background uniquely qualified him to be a great board chairman. He’s interested in every facet of the University—and he never hesitates to ask the tough questions, or to speak his mind. I am proud to say I was on the committee that selected him as chairman.

**Joyce Hergenhan ’63**
Trustee

What has been apparent to me at all times about John is not just his affection, but his deep love for this University and how it has transformed the lives of its graduates and their families. John’s many considerable contributions to Syracuse—his time, his wisdom, and his financial support—speak to his passion and his desire to see our impact grow in the region and the world. I trust that it is very rewarding for John to see that his very effective partnership with Chancellor Cantor has, indeed, enabled a growth in the University’s quality and impact. He has helped to make SU better than ever.

**Eric F. Spina**
Vice Chancellor and Provost

John has energized the Board of Trustees. He has set goals, effectively pursued them, and helped develop a framework for trustee engagement in the future. Because of this leadership, the University is better prepared for the opportunities that will present themselves in this exciting world in which we live.

**Richard L. Thompson G’67**
Chairman-elect, Board of Trustees

John has been a wonderful chairman. He has led by example and his work has benefited the entire University. He has been a tremendous supporter of Scholarship in Action as well as the athletic program.

**John Couri ’63**
Chairman Emeritus, Board of Trustees

A major Orange sports fan, John Chapple provided support for the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center, which features top-notch training facilities for the SU men’s and women’s basketball teams.
As part of an international collaboration, a team of SU physicists is trying to detect the universe's elusive gravitational waves amid a cacophony of noise.

BY JUDY HOLMES
Somewhere in the vast expanses of the universe, two spinning black holes are locked in a death spiral, pulled together by gravity. They collide. The violent confrontation produces ripples—gravitational waves, which herald news of the event at the speed of light across space and time. These are Einstein’s Messengers.

Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 in his theory of general relativity; it took more than 80 years for scientists to invent ways to detect them. Like radio waves, which need to be decoded and amplified by a radio before music can be heard, gravitational waves need to be decoded by instruments that can distinguish the music from the noise. Scientists believe this cosmic music is encoded with information about the celestial bodies—colliding black holes, neutron stars, and exploding stars—that generate the waves, as well as with clues that may reveal the fundamental nature of gravity, and perhaps, the origin of the universe.

Scientists in the College of Arts and Sciences are among a select group of gravitational-wave researchers in the country who are leading efforts to decode Einstein’s symphony. The SU group is part of a worldwide coalition of scientists called the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration, or LIGO as it’s known. In partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), the consortium—led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)—built facilities in Hanford, Washington, and Livingston, Louisiana, to search for the elusive waves. Commissioned in 2001, the LIGO observatories were operational until October 2010, when the instruments were dismantled to make way for Advanced LIGO, the next generation of the project (see page 39). The observatories are expected to be fully operational again in 2015.

Through its participation in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, the SU group has garnered almost $8 million in NSF funding for the University since 1991. That’s when Peter Saulson arrived at SU and established one of the first, NSF-funded, LIGO-related research labs outside of Caltech and MIT. Saulson, the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37 Professor of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences, trained under the best. Fresh out of Princeton with a newly minted Ph.D., he went to MIT in 1981 and spent eight years working with Rainer Weiss, a giant in the gravitational-wave field who developed the concept for LIGO’s core technology—the laser interferometer, a device designed to
detect gravitational waves passing across Earth on their cosmic journey. “It was an act of intellectual courage for the College of Arts and Sciences to hire me,” Saulson says. “There had been no history of NSF funding for LIGO outside the core groups.” Saulson was the lead scientist for the LIGO Livingston Observatory in 2000, ensuring the instrument was constructed properly and performed well, and served as the scientific spokesperson for the LIGO collaboration between 2003 and 2007. In addition, Saulson did early research at SU that played a key role in improving the glass mirrors—key components in the interferometer—that will be installed in Advanced LIGO.

Five years ago, Professor Duncan Brown joined the SU physics department. As a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M), Brown wrote a major piece of the gravitational-wave search software used by LIGO. He subsequently spent three years working with Caltech’s Kip Thorne who, alongside Weiss, is a key player in gravitational-wave research and in the LIGO collaboration. Brown, an NSF CAREER award recipient and Cottrell Scholar, is the principal investigator in a project to build a LIGO supercomputer at SU. Funded by the NSF and the College of Arts and Sciences, the cluster will be housed in the new Green Data Center on South Campus. Collaborating on the project are co-principal investigators Tomasz Skwarnicki, professor of physics; and Christopher Sedore, vice president for information technology/CIO. When it is completed this summer, the SU supercomputer will join LIGO computing centers at UW-M and the Albert Einstein Institute for Gravitational Physics in Germany and the LIGO Laboratory’s main computing center to provide resources for LIGO scientists worldwide.

The SU group is also taking the lead on projects to improve the gravitational-wave search software for Advanced LIGO and develop new technologies that will increase the sensitivity of LIGO instruments beyond what is currently possible. In addition to Saulson and Brown, the group includes physics professor Stefan Ballmer, who is building a mini-LIGO prototype at SU to explore new ways to enhance the sensitivity of LIGO instruments (see page 40). Computing specialist Peter Couvares, two postdoctoral researchers, seven graduate students, and two undergraduates...
The Next Step: Blocking the Clangs and Bangs

Almost a century ago, Albert Einstein predicted that colliding pairs of stars or black holes (binary systems) release energy-carrying gravitational waves that travel millions of light years across the universe. Peter Saulson seeks to be among the first to hear those waves—dubbed Einstein’s Messengers. To do that, he and his research team must devise better ways to muffle external noise. “We learned a lot during the eight years initial LIGO operated,” says Saulson, the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37 Professor of Physics, who has been involved with LIGO for more than 20 years. “We are drastically reducing the environmental and internal noise in Advanced LIGO instruments so that the primary thing we should hear is the universe.”

In addition to improving the physical infrastructure, scientists are working to improve the computer algorithms (mathematical rules) used to search for the signals. It’s an area of the LIGO consortium in which Saulson and his research team are playing a key role. “A lot of very good software was written for initial LIGO,” Saulson says. “We are building on what we’ve learned to make the software quicker, smarter, and more resistant to instrumental noise.”

Coincidently, SU physics professor Duncan Brown wrote much of the original search software as a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. “Duncan drew me into the search for binary systems and into the area of data analysis,” Saulson says. “He put up with my grumblings about the software. However, I don’t think we’ve had many ideas to improve the software that Duncan has not already thought of. Nobody knows the system better than the person who created it.”

Saulson’s team, which includes doctoral candidate Matthew West, is tasked with writing algorithms that will make the software smart enough to disregard the clangs and bangs in the surrounding environment as well as the grunts and groans intrinsic to the instruments. Simultaneously, the new rules will enable the software to more precisely identify the predicted shapes of the signals coming from some of the most violent events in the universe. The improved software will also allow LIGO to see deeper into the universe. The team will test the new code against data collected during initial LIGO. “The beauty is that we are much better off than we were when the original code was written,” Saulson says. “For initial LIGO, we could only invent fake data we thought would mimic environmental noise. But you can never faithfully invent all of the problems or imperfections that are found in real data. We now have lots of real LIGO data—with real imperfections—to help us fine-tune the search software.”

Photo by Susan Kahn

Peter Saulson (right), the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37 Professor of Physics, watches postdoctoral research associate Joshua Smith ’02 demonstrate an apparatus he developed to measure how light scatters off the surface of high-quality mirrors, an important issue in making mirrors good enough to use in LIGO. Smith is now a faculty member at California State University, Fullerton, where he heads a gravitational-wave group that is a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration.
Before arriving at Syracuse University last fall, physics professor Stefan Ballmer worked at LIGO’s Hanford Observatory where he listened for Einstein’s heavenly symphony. He heard a cacophony of sounds: the electrical equivalent of whoops, clangs, and bangs emanating from noises as varied as water flowing over dams hundreds of miles away and trains vibrating their tracks to broken electronic circuits. But, the barely audible “hiss” he was listening for—a sound from the early universe akin to the “yopp” from the tiniest Who in Whoville—eluded him. “We got very good at distinguishing one vibration from another,” Ballmer says. “You learned to hear things that went wrong with the gravitational-wave detector simply by noting a change in the vibrational noise.”

Advanced LIGO, which will be installed in the two observatories over the next three years, is designed to overcome the limitations of the first-generation LIGO instrument. Advanced LIGO will filter out environmental noises, including minute noises generated by the detector itself, all of which can muffle the music of distant objects in the universe. It is as sensitive of an instrument as can be created with known technology. Ballmer, however, aims to explore the unknown. He is building a mini-LIGO in the basement of the Physics Building, which he will use to challenge the fundamental nature of light, and manipulate it to reduce its intrinsic vibrational noise.
The knowledge will help scientists further improve LIGO’s sensitivity.

The traditional model of light is represented as an electromagnetic wave traveling across space and time. However, at the fundamental or quantum level, light is composed of tiny particles—individual photons that exhibit both wave-like and particle-like behavior. Laser light exploits the particle-like properties of light. Inside the LIGO interferometer, light is quantized, creating individual photons of light that bombard the mirrors and the photodetector like tiny pieces of hail pelting a window. The photons push the mirrors back a tiny bit (phase noise) and create a blip sound (shot noise) when they return to the photodetector, Ballmer says. These noises limit LIGO’s ability to detect gravitational waves in ways that current technologies have not resolved. “It turns out this is not a fundamental problem,” Ballmer says. “The trick is to produce a non-classical state of light in the interferometer. One way to do that is to squeeze the light so that the phase noise and the shot noise cancel each other out.”

The mini-LIGO will be used to prove that a squeezed state of light can be produced and controlled. Ballmer will also explore ways to manipulate the tiny force that light exerts to automatically re-align the mirrors in the interferometer. The mirrors are currently kept in position through a system of sensors, tiny magnets, and electromagnetic fields.

The work has just begun. Ballmer estimates it will take up to three years just to build the scale LIGO. There are laser systems to be stabilized, mirror suspension systems to be designed and tested, sensors and circuit boards to be created, and software to be written. “We know the technology that exists,” says Ballmer, who helped build the first LIGO instrument as a doctoral candidate at MIT. “We plan to go beyond that technology and help develop super Advanced LIGO.”

**NINJA: Stealth Invaders**

“If it is true that every theory must be based upon observed facts, it is equally true that facts cannot be observed without the guidance of some theory.” —Auguste Comte, 1830

**FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AUGUSTE**

Comte reasoned that scientific theory and experimentation are inextricable. This is especially true in gravitational-wave astronomy. Black holes are collapsed stars from which nothing—not even light—can escape. Until recent times, scientists could rely only on Albert Einstein’s theory in their attempts to understand black holes.

Today, the LIGO Scientific Collaboration has technology for detecting gravitational waves—tiny ripples in the fabric of the universe emitted by black holes hundreds of thousands of light years away. But to find these tiny ripples hidden in the data collected by LIGO instruments, gravitational-wave astronomers must first understand what they are looking for.

Enter NINJA (Numerical INJection Analysis). NINJA is an international collaboration of more than 100 scientists whose goal is to link numerical relativity researchers (theorists) and LIGO gravitational-wave astronomers (experimentalists). “NINJA is the meeting ground for the two groups,” says SU physics professor Duncan Brown, a NINJA collaborator. “After more than 30 years, both groups achieved their respective goals. It’s now time for everyone to work together.”

Six years ago, Frans Pretorius, a numerical relativity researcher at Caltech, cracked Einstein’s equations to create the first computer simulation of two black holes locked in a death spiral, their collision, and the resulting gravitational waves. The task required very high-speed computers packed with computational power. “It was an incredibly complex, mathematical breakthrough,” Brown says.

Today, scientists worldwide are developing simulations for different configurations of binary systems in motion and their gravitational-wave forms. Three years ago, NINJA hid the theorists’ black hole simulations in fake LIGO gravitational-wave data the experimentalists created to test their detectors. “We challenged LIGO scientists to find the signals in the noise and use the information to describe the simulated black holes—mass, spin, orbital shapes,” Brown says. “It’s one thing to detect a gravitational wave, but can we really understand the physics we extract from the signal?”

The experiment worked and NINJA is repeating it—this time hiding new simulations in segments of real LIGO data collected between 2002 and 2010. “Einstein’s equations predict how black holes behave, but we need experiments to fully understand his theory,” Brown says. “We now have the capability to discover whether the theory matches the experiments. That’s what astronomy and physics are all about.”
In 1989, a tragic fire at a licensed child care facility in California claimed the life of 13-month-old John David “Jack” Reilly IV, the only child of John D. Reilly III ’69, G’70 and his wife, Patricia M. Reilly. For more than two decades since then, the Reillys have championed safe child care settings and ongoing educational opportunities for child care providers. Nationally, they’ve testified on child care licensing issues and advocated to childproof cigarette lighters. In their home state of California, they produced an educational video to help parents select child care, which has evolved into a no-cost, widely distributed multilingual CD, curriculum guide, and checklist. Their local advocacy with the Huntington Beach Fire Department and other partners helped provide, install, and repair smoke detectors and train child care providers and the elderly on their use. “You have to reach out to others and teach them, help them,” John Reilly says. “Teaching families about selecting child care and training current and future providers are important to us.”

Continuing their unwavering commitment to children, the Reillys have pledged a $3.5 million naming gift to the College of Human Ecology toward construction of the Jack Reilly Learning Campus for Child Care Excellence, which will provide a high-quality care and learning environment for more children, from newborns to 5-year-olds, and allow SU to expand training and research to establish best practices and national standards in early childhood education for students, educators, and providers. “We knew we wanted to do something in Jack’s name, to continue his memory, to keep him alive,” Patty Reilly says. “We wanted to be sure no other parents or families had to experience this kind of preventable loss, so we decided to partner with Syracuse University.”

The center, to be located on South Campus, will physically and programmatically connect the Bernice M. Wright (BMW) Child Development Laboratory School and the Early Education and Child Care Center, both operated within the College of Human Ecology. The new center is expected to total more than 36,000 square feet when combined with the two existing facilities. School of Architecture faculty members Anne Munly and Ted Brown, of Syracuse-based Munly Brown Studio, are the project’s lead design consultants, working collaboratively with the University’s Office of Campus Planning, Design, and Construction. “The Reillys’ incredible generosity will increase capacity to meet the child care needs of SU families and the community,” Chancellor Nancy Cantor says. “It also will give us an extraordinary opportunity to build on our longstanding, interdisciplinary strengths and connect them powerfully to professional practice. Perhaps even more powerful is the example that
John and Patty, themselves, set for us all by showing vividly how we can channel our passion to make a sustained, positive impact on the world.”

The Reillys’ commitment to early childhood education and child care safety has been prominent and purposeful at SU, including support for the Quality Infant/Toddler Caregiving Workshop; the Jack Reilly Institute for Early Childhood and Provider Education, a national center of excellence in child care studies research and best practices; and the annual Jack Reilly Distinguished Lecture Series, which brings international child development experts together with students and caregivers. They also created the Jack Reilly Professorship, held by Jaipaul L. Roopnarine, a senior faculty member in the Department of Child and Family Studies, to provide vision, strategic leadership, and develop curriculum for the institute, which Roopnarine directs. In addition to developing child care safety education programs, an institute priority is to establish an inclusive education program for infants, which would be one of the first in the nation to accommodate children with disabilities and special needs in this age group. Currently, inclusive education programming is available on campus for toddlers and preschool children at the BMW laboratory school. “We are honored to partner with the College of Human Ecology in developing a world-renowned learning institute, where the Syracuse community, international and domestic students and parents, educators, and providers can observe and collaborate, practice and learn, and then return to their homes and entities with a cutting-edge experience in teaching methods and research in infant and child care studies,” the Reillys say. 

FROM FEDERAL HEAD START OF THE GREAT SOCIETY years of the 1960s and developmentally appropriate early childhood education practices to inclusive education, the College of Human Ecology and its forerunners, and the School of Education have been at the forefront of progressive development and inclusion of all children in education at the earliest stages of development.

The Syracuse University Nursery School was established in 1950 in the College of Home Economics, and was renamed the Bernice M. Wright (BMW) Cooperative Nursery School in 1973 in honor of Bernice Meredith Wright, dean of the College for Human Development from 1964 to 1973. Today, it’s known as the BMW Child Development Laboratory School.

Bettye Caldwell, professor emerita of child and family studies, was an early architect of Head Start, developing it at the Children’s Center in Syracuse as one of the first national models of preschool enrichment programs in the 1960s. She collaborated at the center and later at SU with Alice Honig, professor emerita of child and family studies, who continues a 40-year teaching career that includes the annual Quality Infant/Toddler Caregiving Workshop, now in its 35th year.

The University’s pioneering national leadership in early childhood programs, complemented by Honig’s international portfolio and reputation, led the Reillys to Syracuse University. In meeting with Diane Lyden Murphy ’67, G’76, G’78, G’83, dean of the College of Human Ecology, the Reillys learned of the important role she has played for more than three decades related to campus child care. As a graduate assistant in the School of Social Work, Murphy worked under the direction of Professor Charles V. Willie G’57, H’92, who served as vice president of student affairs from 1972 to 1974. Known as a compassionate gentleman, Willie was a true champion of meeting the needs of all students, so it came as no surprise that he made child care at SU a priority. As an activist in the feminist movement on campus and a new mother of twins who often accompanied her to campus, Murphy was well suited to partner with Willie in making the vision of campus child care a reality. Appointed as married student coordinator, Murphy, along with volunteers, cared for children in a small space in Hendricks Chapel while the child care proposal evolved. “There were amazing faculty at that time, such as Bettye Caldwell, Alice Honig, Ron Lally, Ruth Wynn, and Bernice M. Wright, who were not only responsible for educating students, but also conducting groundbreaking research in their fields of expertise,” Murphy recalls. “What emerged was a model center in the College for Human Development that offered quality child care for the SU campus. It still does today, thanks to the committed leadership and dedicated staff at our child care facilities.”

Daria Webber ’84, G’89, director of the BMW lab school, began her association with BMW as a student teacher there while pursuing a dual degree in child and family studies and early childhood education. Joan S. Supiro, the longtime director of the Early Education and Child Care Center (EECCC), was appointed as the first non-faculty director of the EECCC in the early 1970s. Supiro, along with many of the teachers at EECCC, has served the campus community with innovative and compassionate child care for several decades. “Legions of SU faculty, graduate students, and staff—myself included—have benefited from the model child care programs we have at EECCC and BMW,” Murphy says.

According to Murphy, the Reillys’ visionary gift will build on this rich tradition, launching a new phase of educating teachers and community child care providers. “This is an excellent example of a synergetic partnership between the University and the community in which we reside,” Murphy says. “And now we get to build something that will meet our needs over the next several decades. That is exciting!”
How much support can one individual provide a university? That question seems worth exploring in an age when Oklahoma State University alumnus T. Boone Pickens has given more than $400 million to his alma mater and Nike’s Phil Knight is believed to have given more than $230 million to the University of Oregon. In both cases, much of their respective generosity has targeted football programs that now annually rank among the top 10. But make no mistake, while these contemporary tycoons are among the latest to support intercollegiate athletics, the first to truly practice this level of largesse was a man who never attended Syracuse, but still left an indelible mark on the University he loved.

John Dustin Archbold, a native of Leesburg, Ohio, left school in 1864 at age 16 for work in the Pennsylvania oilfields. Through hard work, sharp business acumen, and an engaging personality, he prospered, moving from the oilfields to the corporate world. Ultimately, he became so widely known as a titan of the booming oil industry that his December 6, 1916, obituary in The New York Times noted he was “almost as closely identified with Standard Oil as John D. Rockefeller himself.”

Not surprisingly, as a man of great financial means, the 38-year-old Archbold was selected in 1886 for the Syracuse University Board of Trustees. It was a service he conscientiously provided to SU for the next three decades, including chairing the board from 1893 to 1916. He was also instrumental in recruiting the University’s fourth Chancellor, James Roscoe Day, a personal friend and his minister from the New York City Methodist church he attended.

As Archbold’s association with the new university on the Hill grew, so did his generosity. His gifts, which included paying off much of the institution’s early debt, totaled approximately $4 million and transformed the University. But one particular gift—a football stadium that he initially did not want named in his honor—left a lasting impression on the nascent American sports landscape. Designed by architecture professors Frederick Revels and Earl Hallenbeck, Archbold Stadium was deliberately patterned after various ancient Roman-modified Greek amphitheatres and constructed in a natural hollow just south of Steele Hall. Although the stadium hosted its first football game in 1907 (a 28-0 victory against Hobart), it wasn’t officially completed until 1908. The 20,000-seat venue was only the third concrete athletic facility in the country. Its footprint, covering nearly 6.5 acres, was larger than the Roman Colosseum, and many proclaimed Archbold as “the greatest athletic arena in America.”

Research of historic American stadia suggests that Archbold’s March 1905 pledge to build the Orangemen a world-class football and track facility likely represented the first-ever naming gift for a fully encircled stadium. At that time, Archbold’s pledge, which approached $600,000, was the largest ever to an American university.
To be sure, there had been other turn-of-the-20th century sport-themed donations to universities for land, fences, and rough grandstands. At Notre Dame, alumnus Warren Cartier paid for land and building materials to construct a fence and simple grandstand at Cartier Field, which opened in 1889. Farther west, at Colorado State, Charles Durkee donated money for a tall wooden fence in 1901 to enclose three sides of the Rams’ first football field (railroad tracks covered the fourth). At the University of Michigan, Detroit businessman Dexter Ferry bought 20 acres near the university’s existing athletic grounds in 1902 and donated the land for the creation of a stadium. By 1906, Ferry Field had been upgraded to include a brick wall, ornamental gate, and 10 ticket windows.

But in an age of Pennsylvania’s sprawling Franklin Field, which was built in 1895 for $100,000 and named after Benjamin Franklin, and the stout Harvard Stadium (opened in 1903), Archbold’s munificence immediately lifted Syracuse into the rarified air of big-time collegiate athletics. “It will endure for ages, for it cannot be shaken down by anything less than an earthquake,” Chancellor Day once said. Endure it did, standing as a home for the oil king’s beloved Orangemen for 71 years—until wrecking balls replaced footballs at “Old Archie” following SU’s 20-17 victory over 18th-ranked Navy on November 11, 1978. Two years later, the Carrier Dome opened for business on the same site where Archbold Stadium once proudly stood.

As the 19th century ended, it’s worth noting that collegiate football was emerging as a vocal and profitable challenger to baseball’s hold on the American sporting public. The game was also emerging as a brutal bash-up: In 1904, 21 players were reported killed on the gridiron. Within two years, a group of colleges and universities formed the National Collegiate Athletic Association to standardize rules and curb violence.

The Roaring 1890s and dawning new century had galvanized American commerce, and numerous educators observed there was a strong linkage between football and revenue generation for the academy. In 1895, John D. Rockefeller, a stalwart of the University of Chicago, offered a $3 million donation if UC could defeat hated rival Wisconsin. By the late 1890s, Yale, led by pioneering coach Walter Camp, had generated approximately $100,000 in profits through football, and in 1904 Ivy League rival Harvard announced a $50,000 “surplus” in its football budget. Archbold’s agenda was to provide Syracuse a chance to beat Yale (national football champions 15 times between 1874 and 1900), Michigan (champs in 1901, 1902), and Pennsylvania (1895, 1897, and 1904).

With collegiate football emerging as big business, capitalistically intuitive universities began linking donations to football’s fiscal engine. At Syracuse, the lineman-sized Chancellor Day (6-foot-6, 250 pounds) needed funds to expand the University’s footprint as well as its sports agenda. Day didn’t like losing—nor did his friend Archbold. Together, the two men set out to give Syracuse a chance to compete on the nation’s rapidly developing athletic stage. In The Hill: An Illustrated Biography of Syracuse University, 1870-Present, historian John Robert Greene G’83 summed up the growth of SU in the first 20 years of the 20th century with these simple words: “Chancellor Day’s vision, Mr. Archbold’s money.”

Archbold often made anonymous donations and contributed to the construction of von Ranke (the Tolley building) and Carnegie libraries, Peck, Sims, and Steele halls, plus the “New Oval” athletic field. In 1914, the Board of Trustees recognized him by naming the College of Liberal Arts in his honor, and the Hall of Languages still bears his name over an entrance on its north side. A year later, he made his final gift for the purchase of the Nottingham House (701 Walnut Avenue), which serves today as the Chancellor’s residence. Only Archbold Gymnasium (finished in 1908) and Syracuse Stage’s Archbold Theatre (funded by grandson John Dana Archbold in 1980) stand today as visible links to the generosity of Archbold and his family.

Archbold’s most significant legacy, however, remains the memory of his great elliptical football stadium. While it is no longer a part of the campus landscape, the renowned facil-
Maintaining Orange Connections

ALL SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY alumni join family, friends, faculty, and staff in congratulating members of the Class of 2011 who will receive their well-earned degrees during the 157th Commencement ceremony in the Dome on May 15. Hopefully, our students will realize this is not the end of their SU experience, but rather the beginning of a new, ongoing relationship that will help them find success out in the world. The University and the SU Alumni Association (SUAA) offer our brand-new graduates assistance with career services on campus, as well as our SUccess in the World, which helps them make connections that can lead to professional success. There are 80 alumni clubs all over the world that serve many of our 230,000 alumni. When our students leave campus, everything they do will have a touch of Orange to it, and the University wants them to stay connected through all the phases of their lives.

As we send these graduates out into the world, we prepare to welcome a new group of students in the fall, one that will continue the trend of being more diverse geographically, racially, ethnically, and economically than those classes before it. As I complete my second and final year as president of the SUAA Board of Directors, I have many fond memories to reflect on and won’t soon forget all the enjoyable conversations I’ve had with students and alumni. Our new alumni board president, Brian Spector ‘78, will be familiar to many of you. He is a proud alum of the Whitman School of Management and has been active with the school and the University. A former president of the Northern New Jersey Alumni Club, Brian has served on the alumni board since 2005 and is a contributing member of the board’s executive committee. This past year, as the alumni board became more active in encouraging a culture of philanthropy among alumni, Brian led the board’s new philanthropy committee.

As The Campaign for Syracuse University approaches its $1 billion goal, I want to thank all of the alumni, students, faculty, and staff who have been an important part of our success. And as I settle into the role of past president of the alumni board this summer, I look forward to attending many Commencement week ceremonies in the future and to talking to as many graduates and alumni as possible. Please look for me. I will be wearing orange.

Larry Bashe ’66, G’68
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
Tom Lotz ’57 (A&S) won the Jack Franklin Service Award for his lifetime contribution to the sport of rowing. A participant in the 1956 Olympic trials and a licensed referee since 1990, Lotz is a founding member of the Bay Area Rowing Club of Houston.


Lyn Lipman Lifshin ’60 (A&S) of Schenectady, N.Y., wrote Ballroom (March Street Press), a collection of discrete-yet-linked poems in which dance becomes a metaphor for obsessive yearning and desire.

Peter J. Abell ’62 (A&S) of Brattleboro, Vt., is a retired orthodontist who co-founded Pure Water for the World, a not-for-profit organization that addresses the problems of diseases resulting from contaminated water in developing countries. The organization has been at the forefront of water-related relief efforts in Haiti following the earthquake in 2010. (purewaterfortheworld.org).

Lembit Rauk ’62 (VPA) of Southampton, N.Y., started Floradora, a greeting card company that sells cards wholesale nationwide (www.floradorcards.com).

Benedict Alibrandi ’64 (EDU) of Fayetteville, N.Y., was inducted into the Christian Brothers Academy Lasallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

Leo V. Kanawada Jr. G’65 (MAX) wrote The Holocaust Diaries (AuthorHouse, 2010), a five-volume series highlighting momentous decisions made by President Roosevelt and Pope Pius XII that challenge the conventional wisdom that they did little to save the millions of Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe.

Michael L. Morgan ’65 (A&S) retired from Indiana University Bloomington, where he is Chancellor Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Jewish Studies. He is the author of 15 books, including Discovering Levinas, and continues to do research and writing. His wife, Audrey Lippman Morgan ’65 (A&S), retired from Indiana University Bloomington as director of undergraduate programs at the Kelley School of Business. They have four grandchildren.

Theodore J. Sheskin G’65 (LCS), professor emeritus of industrial engineering at Cleveland State University, wrote Markov Chains and Decision Processes for Engineers and Managers (CRC Press).

Gregory L. Jones ’66 (A&S) is a doctor of optometry who retired after 36 years as a partner in Spectrum Eyecare in Jamestown, N.Y. In addition to his group practice, for several years Jones served on the board of directors of Vision Service Plan, a national vision care insurance company.


Ira E. Harrison G’67 (MAX) of Atlanta is a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Tennessee. He was awarded the prestigious Legacy Award by the Association of Black Anthropologists, a section of the American Anthropological Association.

Barbara Barde ’68 (SDA), G’69 (NEW) of Toronto played a major part in the creation of the Women’s Television Network (now known as W), and is president and owner of Up Front Entertainment, a company that has produced more than 600 television programs and 30 major series. She was selected as one of Canada’s 100 Most Powerful Women by The Women’s Executive Network for being a leader in Canada’s private, public, and not-for-profit sectors.

Lawrence Ecker ’68 (A&S) was elected to serve as a justice of the New York State Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District, assigned to Putnam County. He lives in Irvington, N.Y., with his wife, Lynne Spector-Ecker ’68 (A&S).

Leslie Ladd Fedge ’68 (A&S), an adjunct professor of French at Cape Cod Community College, completed studies at the Centre International in Antibes, France.

William Indek ’68 (A&S), G’71 (EDU) began his 90th year as a competitive runner and competed in his 1,200th race. He won two age-group medals at the New Jersey Senior Olympics, and was part of a 12-person relay that participated in the 201-mile Ragnar Relay across Florida to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

H. Dean Heberlig Jr. L’69 (LAW), an attorney with the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in real estate law listings.

Martin D. Schwartz ’69 (A&S), G’71 (EDU), president and CEO of The Kennedy Center in Trumbull, Conn., for more than 30 years, received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Community Providers Association. His wife, Elaine Welch Schwartz ’72 (A&S/EDU), is a high school guidance counselor.

Alan Krams ’70 (A&S), a senior counsel in the appeals division of the New York City Law Department, received the prestigious 2010 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award, which honors an unsung mentor whose life and work reflect civility, competence, and ethical behavior.

Joseph Masterleo ’70 (A&S), G’78 (SWK) is a senior associate in the Crosway Counseling Network and has been in private practice of psychotherapy for 32 years. He writes pieces on topics related to holistic counseling and psychotherapy for the Good News Paper, and his sports columns and commentaries appear regularly in the Central New York Sports magazine, as well as in the op-ed section of The Post-Standard in Syracuse.

David Parks ’70 (EDU), professor of educational leadership and policy studies in the School of Education at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., was conferred the “professor emeritus” title by the college’s Board of Visitors.

Elizabeth A. Hartnett ’71 (WSM), L’74 (LAW), an attorney with the Syracuse law firm of Mackenzie Hughes, was named chair of the New York State Bar Association’s 5,209-member trusts and estates law section.

David F. Lee ’71 (A&S) retired as chief of human resources for the Vermont Agency of Transportation after 36 years of service in state government. His wife, Cheryl Benfield Lee ’71 (A&S/NEW), is in private practice as a licensed mental health counselor in Montpelier.
Aaron Sorkin ’83 collected an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for The Social Network, a story about the founders of the social-networking website Facebook. A 2001 Arents Award recipient, Sorkin serves on the College of Visual and Performing Arts Board of Advisors and sponsors the Sorkin L.A. Learning Practicum for Drama. The screenplay also earned Sorkin a Golden Globe.

Stephen J. Vollmer L’71 (LAW), an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in labor and employment law listings.

Joanne Fogel Alper ’72 (A&S), vice chair of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees and circuit court judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit, received the 2010 William L. Winston Award from the Arlington County Bar Foundation in Virginia. The award honors members of the northern Virginia community for long-standing public service and those “who have distinguished themselves...in the promotion of democratic ideals and the advancement of the rule of law.”

Kathy Borrus ’72 (CHE/WSM) of Washington, D.C., wrote the text for Five Hundred Buildings of Paris (Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers), a book highlighting the history and architectural significance of a collection of stunning duotone photographs that showcase the finest, most majestic, and interesting examples of architecture in one of the world’s most beloved cities.

Karen DeCrow L’72 (LAW) gave a presentation at a meeting of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts on the distance women have traveled vis-à-vis the courts and the legal system in the past few decades. She also offered her views on the current status of women and what still needs to be done.

Debra N. Diener ’72 (A&S) of Arlington, Va., is the senior advisor and director of privacy policy for the Department of Homeland Security. She is certified information privacy/professional government, co-chairs the Identity Management Subcommittee of the Federal CIO Council’s Privacy Committee, and is a frequent speaker on identity management issues.

Judy Hull Finney ’72 (A&S), and her husband, Bill Finney ’72 (A&S), have retired to Hilton Head, S.C. Judy was the sports information director at Marymount University for 13 years, and Bill was the head women’s basketball coach at Marymount for 27 years and the athletic director for 20 years.

Diane Suskind G’72 (EDU), a professor at Fitchburg State University, created Face-to-Face, a project that teamed students in her early childhood education class, Investigating in Science and Social Studies, with second-graders eager to explore the topic of outer space.

Glenn E. Bushel L’73 (LAW), of the Tydings & Rosenberg law firm in Baltimore, was recognized for his outstanding legal counsel by Maryland Super Lawyers in the business and corporate category.

Albert Gomolka Jr. ’73 (ESF) of Hillsborough, N.J., retired as superintendent of parks after working for 37 years for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, division of parks and forestry. During his career he managed four state parks, six historic sites, one lake and beach, two campsites, and numerous natural land areas.

Joseph Lamachia ’73 (NEW), a veteran professional voice-over actor represented by VOX, one of the leading talent agencies in Los Angeles, does voices for commercials, movie trailers, promos, narrations, and animation. He was a founding board member and the second president of the SU Newhouse School Alumni Association, which was established in 1985.

Joseph A. Greenman L’74 (LAW), an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in trusts and estates law listings.

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S), an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in environmental law listings.

Julia Alvarez G’75 (A&S), a writer-in-residence at Middlebury College in Vermont, wrote How Tia Lola Learned to Teach (Alfred A. Knopf), a much anticipated sequel to Alvarez’s highly popular book, How Tia Lola Came to [Visit] Stay.

Peggy McCreery Broadbent G’75 (EDU) wrote Early Childhood Programs: Opportunities for Academic, Cognitive, and Personal Success (AuthorHouse). Her book is about programs she created and taught to combined first- and second-grade classes.

Anne Melfi ’75 (VPA) of Atlanta wrote “A Vision of the Public Intellectual, Benjamin Franklin Style,” a chapter in Truth to Power: Public Intellectuals In and Out of Academe (Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

Vicki Hutt Ferstel ’76 (A&S/NEW) is the metro editor of the Advocate, the daily newspaper in Baton Rouge, La.

Thomas Gardner G’76 (A&S) is Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at Virginia Tech. He and his wife, Laura Jones Gardner G’76 (SWK), live in Blacksburg, Va.

James Little ’76 (VPA) of Brooklyn will have an exhibition of paintings at the June Kelly Gallery in New York City from May through mid-June. A “defiant abstractionist,” he won the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award in Painting in 2009.

Susan H. Hildreth ’72 (A&S) was confirmed for a four-year term as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate. The institute, an independent U.S. government agency, is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. She was previously appointed as California’s state librarian by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Prior to that position, Hildreth was at the San Francisco Public Library, where she served as deputy director and then city librarian. Her background also includes five years as deputy library director at the Sacramento Public Library, several years as Placer County’s head librarian, and four years as library director for the Benicia Public Library, all in California. She began her career as a branch librarian at the Edison Township Library in New Jersey.
AS A PARTNER IN A LEADING BOSTON INVESTMENT firm, Michael Thonis might be expected to know something about turning one dollar into two. But last fall, Thonis, the chief operating officer of Charlesbank Capital Partners LLC, made that difficult trick look easy on behalf of The Campaign for Syracuse University. “We were discussing ideas for the Boston Regional Campaign,” says Thonis, an SU trustee who serves on the board’s Audit, Student Affairs, and Investment and Endowment committees. “I had been thinking of making a sizable gift to the University, and then it just hit me: a matching challenge.”

The Thonis Challenge, as it became known, was a personal pledge of $250,000 to match gifts made to the Boston effort during the last quarter of 2010. Alumni responded by eclipsing the matching limit, adding more than $1 million to Boston donations during the 90-day period. “Regional fund raising is a great idea,” Thonis says. “We reach a lot of young donors, first-time contributors, and people who might have been feeling a little isolated. I had the chance to meet lots of area alumni; some of them turned out to be neighbors and at least three became my new friends.”

A Wellesley resident, Thonis was born in the central Massachusetts village of Townsend Harbor, where he discovered a lifelong passion for geology that helped lead him to SU. “The Syracuse Earth sciences department is one of the best in the country,” says Thonis, an honors student who graduated summa cum laude from the College of Arts and Sciences. “I was fortunate enough to study with John Prucha, who encouraged me to pursue graduate work in the field.” Thonis earned a master’s degree in geology at MIT and worked briefly as a geotechnical consultant to an engineering firm, but it gradually became apparent to him that his best talents lay elsewhere. “I think my fascination with the investment world actually began when I took an undergraduate course in business law,” he says. “Even as I barreled ahead into geology, I observed, over time, that I was strongest in matters of finance and administration.” Crossing Cambridge to the Harvard Business School, Thonis earned an M.B.A. degree and was recruited by the Harvard Management Company, which administers the university’s endowment. He worked there for almost two decades. “I became director of stock research, which is a very analytical job,” he says. “In 1998, the company spun off its private equity division as Charlesbank, and I became a partner in the new company.”

During the almost 40 years since his tectonic career shift from rocks to stocks, Thonis never lost his enthusiasm for things Paleozoic or Precambrian. “I’ve kept up reading, I go on field trips with ‘real’ geologists, and I’m an active member of the Geological Society of America,” he says. To keep in shape for expeditions, he walks the 60-story stairwell of the John Hancock Building in downtown Boston. “I still do it a couple of times a week,” he says. “After all that boring concrete, climbing a mountain seems like just plain fun.”

A member of the board of the Museum of Science, Thonis raised more than $70,000 for the Boston institution last year by putting together a team that scaled New Hampshire’s Mt. Washington twice in one day. He shows no sign of slowing down in the challenge department.

—David Marc
Jay Leventhal ’80

Advancing Accessibility

WHEN JAY LEVENTHAL ARRIVED AT SYRACUSE University in 1976, he realized he had to change his approach to schoolwork. Blind since age 4, Leventhal was used to studying alongside sighted students; however, transitioning to college life proved challenging. “Before college, I had a lot of things done for me because I’m blind,” he says. “There was always a teacher in the school who knew Braille and arranged for somebody to read my exams.” Although Leventhal struggled during his first year at Syracuse, his situation improved in subsequent years, thanks to assistance from Jane Hyde, an SU staff member who helped Leventhal with advanced planning for his studies and worked with all students with disabilities to improve their access and services. Leventhal also worked with the facilities planning department in 1979 to develop tactile maps of the campus and its surrounding streets for the blind community.

With today’s technologies, blind students have an easier time keeping up with their studies, he says. For instance, portable book readers allow students to listen to a book, and screen readers give students access to the Internet by reading on-screen text aloud. Unfortunately, many technology developers aren’t aware of how easy it can be to accommodate blind people. “Just labeling links, edit boxes, and other controls on a web page correctly can make a site usable for blind people,” says Leventhal, who earned a degree in psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences.

For Leventhal, advocating for accessibility has been both a personal and professional commitment. “First, I had to advocate for myself,” he says. “Then I started advocating for others.” As editor of AccessWorld, an online magazine published by the American Foundation for the Blind, Leventhal regularly explored issues and reviewed products and innovative technologies designed to improve access for the blind. “We tried to educate our readers and get them involved,” he says. “If they had something they wanted to do, but couldn’t access the software for them to do it, whether it was for their job or for a web site where they wanted to shop, we would encourage them to advocate for themselves.”

In his new role as a technical operations manager with Bridge Multimedia, a New York City-based company dedicated to universally accessible technology, Leventhal is pushing the frontiers of accessibility. The company is working on a five-year government grant that will add audio description, a feature that describes what’s shown on the screen, to children’s educational television programs. Leventhal will collaborate with television networks to ensure audio descriptions will fit seamlessly with dialogue. “It will help the blind students get the same information that the sighted students get from watching,” he says.

For Leventhal, part of the goal has always been to provide blind people with opportunities for access that will allow them to live normal lives. As a student, he needed to depend on others, but recognized how technological advances and advocacy could play such an important role. Above all, when advocating for accessibility through technology, Leventhal stresses the goal of independence. “The new technologies give people the chance to go to school like everyone else and go to work just like anyone else,” he says.

—Charnice Milton
Waleed Abdulati ’86 (LCS), formerly director of the Earth Science and Observation Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder, is principal advisor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on agency science programs and strategic planning. In his new position, Abdulati will represent all of the scientific endeavors in the agency, ensuring that they are aligned with and fulfill the administration’s science objectives, and he will advocate for NASA science in the context of broader government science agendas and work closely with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget.

Virginia A. Hoveman L79 (LAW) of Manlius, N.Y., received the Ellen Fairchild Award for her outstanding work for Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse region. She is a member of Green & Seifert law firm in Syracuse, focusing her practice in the areas of estate planning, elder law, estate litigation, Medicaid planning, and special needs trust and disability planning.

Thomas E. Taylor ’79 (NEW), L86 (LAW), an attorney with the Green & Seifert law firm in Syracuse, was named a member of the Council to the State University of New York Upstate Medical University by former Governor David A. Paterson.

Nemir Matos-Cintrón ’81 (NEW) of Orlando, Fla., is an instructional design specialist at Valencia Community College. Her article, “Virtual Campus at Valencia Community College: A Unique Approach,” will appear in the journal Distance Learning.

Deborah Henretta G’85 (NEW) is president of Procter & Gamble Asia. During President Obama’s visit to Japan to meet with Asian government and business leaders, Henretta hosted the sessions and social gatherings, and served as intermediary between the business sessions and the president to keep him informed of the issues being addressed. At the conclusion of the conference, she was elected chair of the Asian Pacific Economic Council—the first woman to hold that position.


Andrew D. Siegel ’87 (A&S/NEW) of Westport, Conn., is senior vice president for strategy and corporate development of Advance Publications Inc., a diversified media company with leading organizations. He has run three marathons and is training for a fourth.

Dawn Aikman Dinnan ’88 (NEW) of Dennis, Mass., is administrative assistant/assistant staff accountant for Latham Centers Inc., a Cape Cod nonprofit organization that serves children and adults with special needs. The center is internationally known for residential placement of individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Laurie Gwen Shapiro ’88 (NEW) was nominated for an Emmy Award as producer of HBO’s documentary Finishing Heaven.

Amy J. Vigneron L89 (LAW) is a partner in the Cohen & Lombardo law firm in Buffalo, N.Y. She focuses on Bankruptcy, and corporate law, consumer credit law, and commercial and residential real estate.
Mary Spio ’98

DIGITAL DELIVERY

MARY SPIO’S HOST OF PROFESSIONAL TITLES reads much like the cast list of characters one typically encounters on the big screen. Spio, who has shaped the distribution of motion pictures and found success through her patents in digital cinema, has been a deep space communications expert, senior satellite applications engineer, publisher, independent inventor, rocket scientist, inspirational speaker, digital media expert, and successful entrepreneur.

It was Spio’s digital innovations during her time at the Boeing Corporation as head of satellite communications systems that redefined how major motion pictures are distributed to movie theaters globally. Such high-grossing films as Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones, Ocean’s 11, Planet of the Apes, Spy Kids, and Monsters Inc. are among the myriad films that have been digitally delivered to the big screen, thanks to Spio’s technology.

Spio’s success in media and digital cinema began with her study of electrical engineering at the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science. She enrolled at SU following service in the U.S. Air Force, where she developed her passion for engineering and satellite communications. “My dad was an alumnus of Syracuse University, so I always held the University in high regard,” says Spio, who funded her education with help from the GI Bill and an SU ROTC scholarship award. “I knew I wanted to attend SU as well.”

After graduating first in her class at L.C. Smith, Spio earned a master’s degree in global innovation management/electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She started her career at Ultra Corp. in Syracuse and then moved on to Pan American Satellite Corporation. In 2001, she was recruited to work for Boeing as head of satellite communications systems, where the company eventually formed a new division—Boeing Digital Cinema—thanks in part to R&D Spio was conducting. Through her work and innovation, Spio helped Boeing develop a secure way to digitally distribute films over satellite that is still being used today. “I feel very fortunate to have learned digital concepts, because everyone is looking to leverage that now,” Spio says.

After Boeing, Spio launched her own media company, Gen2Media Corporation, providing technical and marketing counsel to such companies as TiVO, Clear Channel Communications, Microsoft, Toyota, and Coca-Cola. Spio’s unique business perspective and social media savvy, coupled with her remarkable engineering background, fueled her entrepreneurial success—and led to the sale of Gen2Media, which is now publicly traded. “Having an engineering background has allowed me to have so much flexibility and so many options in carving out a career for myself,” Spio says.

Perhaps the best example of this is her work with ABC’s The Bachelor. Spio—who holds six patents and is credited as a co-inventor on several more—turned to her patent in demographic targeting to help the producers of the hit reality television show find targeted contestants for season seven. Not surprisingly, Spio married her engineering abilities, matchmaking skills (which she honed working for a dating service while at SU), and marketing savvy to find the right mix of contestants. In total, 23 out of 25 contestants that season were a product of Spio’s blend of engineering and marketing genius.

Today, Spio is at the helm of Next Galaxy Media (NGM), a marketing and globally integrated technology company she founded to help customers reach and engage more of their clients and prospects by leveraging online video, search, and social media solutions. “I want to do for video what Google has done for search,” Spio says. “The needs and challenges of the market continually fuel my innovation.”

Always open to new ventures, Spio plans to launch a new one that will spotlight opportunities in engineering for high school and college students, encouraging young engineers to “live out their passion” and apply their curiosity about the way things work to fields as diverse as those in which she has succeeded. “I think you should follow your passion,” Spio says. “Be open to new opportunities in engineering, I would have never had these opportunities without exploring; I never thought this would be the path I’d take.”

—Pamela Woodford
IN THE FIRST PERSON

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Thoughts on a Humanitarian Mission to Vietnam

By Debra Hadala Woodman

IN FALL 1971, MY TWIN BROTHER, THOMAS, AND I BEGAN our freshman year at SU, where I was enrolled in the College of Nursing. It was the Vietnam era, and I vividly remember my family being fearful that my brother would be drafted and sent to Nam. I fantasized that if I joined the Navy and graduated as a captain, I could take my brother’s place in the war. Fortunately, it didn’t come to that, and we graduated together in 1975, the year of Jimi Hendrix, *Jaws*, M*A*S*H, and the Fall of Saigon.

Three days after graduation, I began my nursing career caring for soldiers at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Buffalo. Thirty five years later, with my kids in college, I felt free to be me again, and maybe use what I’d learned at SU to help others less fortunate. So, I joined the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation, founded by Caritas Catholic Relief Services and based in the Buffalo area, and headed to Vietnam armed with my stethoscope, two new sets of scrubs, and Hunter S. Thompson’s *The Rum Diary*.

While the suitcases and medical supplies were being transferred at the terminal in Hong Kong, I noticed the luggage band for Ho Chi Minh City was “SGN” (Saigon). This worked for me because in my mind, the name of the city had never changed. After we checked into the famed Rex Hotel, where journalists had gathered on the top floor to escape the approaching Viet Cong during the Fall of Saigon, we immediately went to our assigned hospitals to begin screening patients for the following day’s surgeries. I worked with the plastic surgery team, headed by Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, the prestigious chairman of the foundation. It didn’t take me long to realize we would be working in circa 1950s’ medical conditions sans air conditioning.

Following our group’s courtesy call on Cardinal Pham Minh Man, I joined the orthopedic team at Thong Nhat Hospital, where patient screening was still in progress. As expected, I saw accident victims with broken bones that healed improperly due to lack of treatment and some congenital birth defects. But I also saw row upon row of 12- to 20-year-olds with horrific twisted limbs, clawed hands and feet, and cleft palates. It was clear we had a huge challenge ahead.

My plastics team performed cleft lip and palate surgery for the next two days. In the United States, palates are usually repaired at the age of 6 months, but these children were about 2 to 8 years old. None of these children, nor the kids waiting for orthopedic procedures, had ever received any treatment, and most wouldn’t be able to afford the trip into the city from the rural areas of Vietnam, let alone the cost of surgery. And tragically, Vietnamese children with deformities, even those with cleft lips, are ostracized socially and have no hope of an independent life outside their parents’ home.

When I arrived back home, my son searched the Internet and discovered the deformities I’d seen among the Vietnamese children were identical to those exposed to Agent Orange during the war. Because of the young age of the patients on which we operated, I suspect their deformities may be the result of genetic defects passed down to second and third generation victims of Dioxin, the chemical used in Agent Orange. Of course I can’t be sure, and I know American soldiers who were exposed to this toxin suffered, too. But it is so sad to realize that the very people we were trying to protect so many years ago continue to suffer to this day.

At first, the enormity of this realization diminished the good feelings I had about what we’d accomplished in Saigon. But my mother reminded me that, without the skill and dedication of our medical team, all of those children would still be without proper care. I am proud that in just three days we completed 108 orthopedic, plastic, and vascular surgical procedures. For me, it was truly the trip of a lifetime.

Debra Hadala Woodman ’75 lives in Western New York with her husband, Dr. Henri Woodman, and their two children. For more on the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation, go to www.hopefortomorrowfoundation.com. To view a video by Woodman about her trip, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEEFOFesOY.
Alumni Board Welcomes 4 New Members

LAST FALL, THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Alumni Association (SUAA) welcomed four new board members: Tracy Barash ’89, Contessa Brewer ’96, Carolyn Chernick Lindheim ’84, and Sarah Flaum Ressler ’07. According to Ellen King G’10, executive director of alumni relations, each member was chosen for her commitment to SU and the energy and ideas she brings to the position. “They are go-getters,” King says. “They are innovative and aren’t afraid to take the initiative in order to move things forward.”

King isn’t the only one happy with the new class of board members, who serve a two-year term. “I’m hugely impressed with the caliber and diversity of the members’ backgrounds on the board,” Barash says. “It reflects Syracuse University as a whole.” Barash is the vice president of brand development for Turner Broadcasting’s Animation, Young Adults & Kids Media group, overseeing Cartoon Network’s overall brand health. As an SUAA board member, she plans to share her brand-building expertise to help programs reach new audiences.

Each member brings a different perspective to her new role. For instance, Lindheim’s daughter, Danielle ’14, and nephew, Adam ‘11, are students at the Whitman School of Management. “Having a child at Syracuse changes everything,” she says. “I look at things not only through my daughter’s eyes, but also as a parent.” She receives feedback from Danielle and her friends about how SU can enhance its image. As a lawyer, Lindheim says she knows how to focus on her goals and present her ideas and opinions in a thoughtful and creative manner. She is also close to her former classmates and professors, which was helpful when she planned her 25th class reunion in 2009.

One issue the new board members want to address is how to improve the involvement of young alumni. Ressler, the youngest member on the board, is working with Generation Orange, a philanthropy program directed to alumni who have graduated in the last 10 years. She recently worked with 10 young alumni to plan a regional event in Washington, D.C. “I’m thrilled to be a part of this,” Ressler says. “This is just the first step in giving back to Syracuse.” As a member of an Orange family legacy—her father is Trustee Emeritus David M. Flaim ’75; her mother, Ilene Flaim ’76; brother, Asher Flaim ’02; and sister-in-law, Monica Geula Flaim ’00—and a resident of Rochester, she brings a passion for SU and connections to the upstate New York area.

Another way young alumni can give back is through mentoring. “The more involved alumni are with present students, the richer Syracuse will become,” says Brewer, who is helping plan a mentoring program that matches alumni with first-year students. Brewer believes this program will help cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship. “It keeps alumni current and gives students a chance to learn about the real world,” says Brewer, a veteran television journalist and MSNBC anchor who hosts Caught on Camera.

When asked why they joined the SUAA board, the new members found the answer was easy. “It was an honor to be asked,” Barash says. “How can I say no?” Ressler says she wanted to be involved for all that she has gained through SU. “It was the best four years of my life,” she says. Brewer also gained much from her time at SU. “I received a scholarship to attend SU and insight from the alumni,” she says. “I even got my first job because of an alumni.” As Lindheim puts it, “It’s the best way I can give back.”

—Charnice Milton
Doug Robinson ‘85

PRODUCING TALENT

DOUG ROBINSON LIKES WORKING WITH HIS friends, and that’s understandable. They include Adam Sandler, Bette Midler, Will Smith, David Spade, Nicholas Cage, and a list of similarly talented notables long enough to give most TV viewers and movie-goers a bad case of what urbandictionary.com calls “friendvy.” Robinson, executive producer of the hit CBS sitcom Rules of Engagement, sealed many of those friendships during a successful career as a talent agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) and Endeavor, before turning his efforts to producing.

“I think representation is about finding people you genuinely like and appreciate,” says Robinson, head of the television unit at Happy Madison Productions. “Being an agent is about more than just getting jobs for people. You have to be a friend, confidant, and so many other things in their lives. My clients, particularly the comics I represented, were my peers. A lot of the people I used to represent are still good friends today because of all the common interests we share.”

Robinson is especially excited about his new FOX sitcom, Breaking In, which took to the air in April. Network executives gave the series a strong vote of confidence by scheduling it in the coveted slot following mega-hit American Idol. With Rules of Engagement now in its fifth season on CBS and more than a dozen new series and made-for-television movies in development or production at Happy Madison, Robinson has his hands full, but he insists he is never too busy to find time for SU students who are scouting out their careers in Hollywood. “I believe it’s critical for students interested in the entertainment industry to have access to what we really do,” he says. “When I was in school, everyone knew that Syracuse was a great place if you wanted to be a sportscaster or get into local news. But we didn’t have anything like what we have today in the entertainment industry. The University has done a really great job in building an alumni network—and I love being part of it.”

After completing a double major in television-radio-film at the Newhouse School and marketing management at the Whitman School, Robinson, a native Long Islander, moved west and got a foot in the door at CAA. “I worked in the mail room,” he says, “and it’s still the best place to learn the business.” During his first year on the job, the Newhouse School initiated its annual winter break trip to Los Angeles for students with aspirations in the entertainment field, and Robinson remembers feeling jealous of the visitors as they toured CAA and met with executives. A member of the Newhouse Advisory Board, he has worked to expand and enhance such student opportunities ever since. Robinson helped to shape SU’s spectacularly successful L.A. Semester program, serving as a founding member of its alumni board. “The fact that students can now come out here to Los Angeles, take courses, get their credits, and have a real-life working experience in the entertainment industry, is a fantastic step forward,” he says. “The L.A. Semester is a jewel in the crown.”

—David Marc
Maya Gasuk ‘90 (NEW) is a senior consultant at West Wind Consulting Strategies in Fundraising in Ithaca, N.Y.

Timothy Moshier G’90 (A&S) is director of chemical-biological research and defense at SRC, formerly the Syracuse Research Corporation. He helps build new business in chemical, biological, and environmental research, homeland security, and chem-bio defense.

Esra Ozer ‘90 (NEW) is director of executive communications at Alcoa in New York City.

Susan Papadakis ‘90 (ARC) of Venice, Calif., is the project manager for a new 50,000-square-foot production building at Warner Bros. in Burbank.

Martin A. Schwab L’90, G’98 (LAW), an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in trusts and estates law listings.

Kenyatta Bell ‘91 (A&S) of Miami Beach, Fla., founded a company that sells PALO, a 100 percent natural vitality tea from the Dominican Republic that is brewed from 16 different wild-crafted roots and herbs (www.drinkpalo.com).

Gregory J. Chapman L’91 (LAW), an attorney with the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm’s Albany office, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in corporate law listings.

Tawanda Williams Johnson ‘91 (NEW) of Columbia, Md., is press secretary for the American Physical Society. In addition to studying for a master’s degree in strategic public relations at George Washington University, she works with her husband, Kerry, on Harambee Hills, a web comic they created about the wacky adventures of a suburban family (www.gocomics.com/harambeeHills).

George R. McGuire ‘91 (ECS), L’96 (LAW), an attorney with the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 in intellectual property law listings.

Judi Wisniewski G’91 (VPA) is chair of the art and design department at the Art Institute of Virginia Beach. As chair, she oversees the direction of the graphic design, media arts and animation, photography, and web design and interactive media curricula.

Joshua Zinder ‘91 (ARC) received the American Institute of Architects New Jersey Design Merit Award for Waku Ghin, an innovative restaurant at the Marina Bay Sands Resort in Singapore (www.joshuazinder.com).

Colleen Kraneffus Gentile L’92 (LAW) was elected shareholder of the Sands Anderson law firm in Richmond, Va. She defends health care providers and medical professionals from medical malpractice suits and advises clients on credentialing, peer review, risk management, and health care matters.

Allan Hoffman G’92 (A&S) wrote Create Great iPhone Photos (No Starch Press), which takes readers through all of the most powerful iPhone photography apps, with an eye toward transforming mundane snapshots into artful photographs.

Sunwoo Lee G’92 (LCS) is manager of the intellectual property practice group for Roetzel & Andress law firm in Washington, D.C.

Rachel S. Lerner ‘92 (A&S) joined the Kleinberg, Kaplan, Wolff & Cohen law firm as of counsel in its corporate practice.

John Nunziato ‘92 (VPA) is creative director and founder of Little Big Brands, a package design and branding firm in Nyack, N.Y. He was named one of “20 distinguished people to watch in 2011” by Graphic Design USA magazine.

Eric Robinson G’92 (NEW), L’92 (LAW) is deputy director of the Reynolds Center for the Courts and Media at the University of Nevada in Reno.

Peter Tryba ‘92 (A&S) and his wife, Rachel, of Newton, Mass., announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Rowan.

Heather Sorrentino Robertson ‘93 (A&S) earned a Ph.D. in counselor education from Virginia Tech. She works for Stony Brook University, and her husband, Ben Robertson ‘92 (LCS), is a private pilot. They live with their sons, Ryan and Samuel, in Port Jefferson, N.Y.

Deborah Kinum ‘94 (VPA) married Carlton Ronnie. They reside in Woodstock, Conn.

Jacqueline Savage McFee ‘94 (VPA) of Charlotte, N.C., creates back-to-school and office supplies under the brand name JACKIE (www.jackiemcfee.com). Her trend-setting designs are featured on Glee, iCarly, Pretty Little Liars, 90210, and the Oprah Winfrey Show. McFee, who created the Kendall Kollection to raise money for a little girl battling leukemia, chronicles her life on her blog, From Me to Hue (www.frommetohue.typepad.com).

Alexis Ostrander ‘07 (VPA) of Los Angeles made a documentary about the lives of five women with disabilities on their journey to the 2010 Ms. Wheelchair America pageant. Defining Beauty: Ms. Wheelchair America was screened at the Syracuse International Film Festival during Orange Central. Pictured top left: Alexis Ostrander, director/producer; Stuart Lillas, camera operator; David J. Frederick, director of photography. Bottom left: Alyson Roth, Ms. Wheelchair California; Michelle Colvard, Ms. Wheelchair America 2009; Erika Bogan, Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina. Other SU alumni who worked on the project: Manuela Ikenze G’01 (WSM), executive producer; Chuck Hayward ‘02 (NEW), narration writer; and Justin Liang ‘09 (VPA), camera operator, South Dakota.
The summer of 2002 was a turning point for Maria Brown. Her mother, who suffers from dementia and bipolar disorder, fell into a coma, an indirect long-term side effect from medicine she was taking. Two years earlier, Brown had left her position at Nielsen Claritas in Ithaca to care for her aging parents in Syracuse, but never expected the health care system to be such a failure in treating her mother. Mostly, she says, it was because her mother was mentally ill and poor. Amid the ordeal, however, Brown noted the positive experience she had with the social workers. “They were better at giving me the whole message than doctors or nurses,” Brown recalls. “Social workers are trained to deal with the family and talk to you and help you see the whole picture. They were really patient with me and understanding.”

Because of her dementia and financial situation, Brown’s mother was placed in a nursing home. “When older folks start to have some decline in their physical function, they can live in what they call ‘assisted living,’” Brown says. “But with her mental illness, on top of whatever her physical problems are, there’s no place for her there.” The experience inspired Brown, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Ithaca College, to change careers. She wanted to advocate for those, like her mother, who receive less-than-desirable health care and decided to pursue a master’s degree in social work. At the same time, however, she was diagnosed with non-invasive breast cancer. After enduring radiation treatments and a lumpectomy, Brown enrolled in the School of Social Work, earning a master’s degree specializing in geriatric social work.

As a social work student, Brown focused her studies on vulnerable elders who were poor, living with mental illness or dementia, lacked health insurance, or identified as a racial, ethnic, or sexual minority. She also focused on older individuals with dementia and their family caregivers, a familiar subject from her own experiences with her mother. Realizing she wanted to have an even stronger impact on the health care system through her research, Brown enrolled in the doctoral program in social science at the Maxwell School. In 2007, however, five years after her first bout with breast cancer, she was diagnosed again—this time with a more aggressive form. It took nine months away from her studies, but she credits the Maxwell faculty, staff, and students for support throughout the ordeal.

Despite the setback, a cancer-free Brown returned to her research and was named a 2008-10 John H. Hartford Foundation Doctoral Fellow in Geriatric Social Work. She won the 2010 national dissertation student research award from the Gerontology Society of America’s Behavioral and Social Science section. She also received the Syracuse University Gerontology Center’s 2010 graduate student paper award for “Early Life Characteristics, Psychiatric History and Cognition Trajectories in Later Life.” Today, she works as the research coordinator at the Rodney and Marjorie Fink Institute at Menorah Park for Applied Research on Aging in Syracuse, which is affiliated with the SU Gerontology Center. “My desire to see better advocacy for people like my mother—poor, elderly, and mentally ill—was born out of my frustration as her caregiver during this crisis and the months surrounding it,” she says. Now, as a social gerontologist, she is the advocate she, her mother, and others like them, need.

—Charnice Milton
**MURRAY BERNTHAL ’32, G’35**

Murray Bernthal, New York State’s last independent impresario, died December 9, 2010, in Syracuse at age 99. Founder of the Famous Artists Series, Famous Artists Country Playhouse, and Famous Artists Broadway Theater series, Bernthal was a nationally respected theatrical producer who brought some of the world’s greatest concert artists, actors, ballet companies, orchestras, and Broadway shows to Syracuse for nearly 65 years.

Born in Brooklyn, Bernthal was a violin prodigy who came to Syracuse University in 1928 on a combination violin and basketball scholarship—and never left. Arts patron Mrs. H. Winfield Chapin offered him a full four-year scholarship if he would devote himself fully to studying music. He did, and went on to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees at SU and joined the music department faculty in 1932. He retired as head of the string department in 1977.

Bernthal was a concert violinist, conductor, businessman, concert, theater, and sports promoter, and lifelong ’Cuse fan who left his mark on Syracuse in countless and important ways. “He had an amazing life,” said Bernthal’s son, Eric “Rick” Bernthal. “All you can do is smile. Who gets a life like his?”

**HELEN BOATWRIGHT H’03**

Helen Boatwright, the celebrated American soprano, died December 1, 2010, in Jamesville, New York, at age 94. Born Helena Johanna Strassburger in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Boatwright was a concert and oratorio singer who began her career in the 1940s and performed in public well into her 90s. She was known for her pure sound, impeccable diction, and sensitive interpretations, which made her well suited for early music and contemporary works.

Boatwright became renowned for her interpretations of the work of Charles Ives, making the first extensive recording of his tracks in 1954 with the release of Twenty-Four Songs. Her work took her to many of the country’s best-known concert halls as well as to the White House, where she sang for President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Boatwright taught voice at Syracuse University, the Eastman School of Music, and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She was married to the late violinist, conductor, and composer Howard Leake Boatwright Jr., who was dean of Syracuse University’s School of Music from 1964 to 1972. The couple performed together in many recitals, and she often sang songs her husband had written for her.

**ANN LUBIN GOLDSTEIN ’48**

Ann Lubin Goldstein, esteemed alumna and benefactor of Syracuse University, died April 1, 2011, in Sarasota, Florida, at age 83. Together, Ann and her husband, Al, were major supporters of the University over several decades. Among the many campus buildings named in their honor are the Ann and Alfred Goldstein Auditorium, the Ann and Alfred Goldstein Student Center on South Campus, the Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center, the Joseph I. Lubin School of Accounting, and the Joseph I. Lubin Floor in the Whitman School of Management building.

Goldstein was the first of three generations in her family to attend Syracuse. She was followed by her daughter, SU Trustee Emerita Wendy Cohen ’70, H’02; sons, Richard ’79, and Steven G’76; and grandchildren, Heather Cohen ’02, and Zachary Goldstein ’11.

Goldstein’s lifelong commitment to philanthropy was instilled by her father, Joseph I. Lubin, who was a lifetime SU trustee and generous supporter of the University. Among his many contributions was a building on 11 East 61st Street in Manhattan. Today, Lubin House serves as the center of SU’s New York City operation, offering a wide array of programs and events for SU alumni in the greater New York metropolitan area.
Brad Williams ’94 (NEW) is a senior analyst at Duke University. He resides in Hillsborough, N.C., with his wife, Wendy, and their children, Connor and Katie.

Mallary Weintraub Alcheck ’95 (VPA) and her husband, Mike Alcheck, of San Francisco, announce the birth of their daughter, Ivy Ruth.

Jody Krikstone Mahoney ’95 (VPA) is project manager at Orchard Point Consulting in Raleigh, N.C.

James Persaud G’95 (MAX) wrote *Glossary of Business and Management Terms* (Xlibris), a handy and user-friendly reference guide for anyone who wants concise definitions of business terms.

Damian Redman ’95 (NEW) married Jennifer Summa. They reside in Waterford, N.Y.

Anthony V. Riccio ’95 (A&S), stacks manager at the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University, wrote *Cooking with Chef Silvio: Stories and Authentic Recipes from Compania* (SUNY Press).

Jeffrey S. Stewart ’95 (A&S/NEW), a member of the Pennsylvania office of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, made presentations at *Your Legal Triad!*, a conference hosted by the Lehigh Valley Society for Human Resource Management.

Stephen Glatt ’96 (A&S), a professor and researcher at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, received the Sidney J. Baer Prize for Schizophrenia Research from NARSAD, the leading donor-supported organization dedicated to funding mental health research.

Heather Mayoros ’96 (VPA) and Tim Knol ’97 (NEW) operate the Mayoros Agency, a full service advertising, design, and marketing firm in Rock Hill, S.C., that won a prestigious 2010 American Graphic Design Award.

Neal Schack ’96 (WSM) and his wife, Jennifer, of Syosset, N.Y., announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Brooke, who joins brother Corey Daniel. Schack works in the middle office change management group at Merrill Lynch/Bank of America.

Shannon Stevens ’96 (NEW) married William Redlich. They reside in Mastic, N.Y.

Joanna Chambers Finer ’97 (SWK) and her husband, Eric Finer ’97 (ECU), of Oak Ridge, N.C., announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, who joins sister Brooke.

Laura A. Harshbarger L’97 (LAW), an attorney with the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, was named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2011 in labor and employment law listings.

Leah Karr Johnson ’97 (WSM) and her husband, Neil Johnson, of Cornwall, N.Y., announce the birth of their daughter, Quin April, who joins brother Reid.

Katherine Joyce ’97 (A&S/NEW) is executive director of the Baltimore-based International Book Bank, a nonprofit organization that advances literacy by sending books to developing countries.

Candace Kelley G’97 (NEW), an Emmy-nominated TV journalist, created Curl Prep Natural Hair Solutions, an all-natural line of hair care products to give women a new “BFF—Boss Funky Fros.” Her book, *Curl Cuisine: Hair Recipes and Side Dishes for the Hair and Now*, offers hair craving recipes you can make at home (www.curlprep.com).

David Pietrandrea ’97 (VPA) founded ROBOX Studios, a games and animation micro-studio in Hoboken, N.J. ROBOX created and developed the popular Adult Swim web game, Orphan Feast, which has been played more than five million times (roboboxstudios.com).

Shamara Ray ’97 (A&S) of Huntington Station, N.Y., wrote *Recipe for Love* (Simon & Schuster), a novel that is one part culinary delight, with a dash of romance, and a pinch of suspense.

Elizabeth Meier King ’98 (VPA/NEW) and her husband, Todd King, of Centre Hall, Pa., announce the birth of their son, Tyler Earl. Elizabeth is associate director in the Office of Annual Giving at Penn State University.

Lisa Hines MacFarlane ’98 (A&S/NEW) and husband, Scott MacFarlane ’98 (A&S/NEW), of Gaithersburg, Md., announce the birth of their son, Jonathan Douglas. Lisa teaches journalism and history courses for Montgomery County Schools and is an instructor for the Newhouse School’s summer capstone broadcast journalism program in Washington. Scott is COX Television’s Washington correspondent and a board member of the WJPZ Alumni Association.

William Warkentin ’98 (A&S), a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving from August 2007 to July 2010 as executive officer and commanding officer of field and weapons training company and the assistant operations officer of weapons and field training battalion, Edson Range, at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Joseph Cohen ’99 (NEW), group vice president at MWW Group in East Rutherford, N.J., was appointed to the national board of directors of the Public Relations Society of America. He was also honored by *PR News* as “PR Agency Team Leader of the Year” at the 2011 PR News PR Platinum Awards (www.prnewsonline.com).

Ebenee Hamilton Lewis ’99 (A&S) was elected shareholder at Little Mendelson. She is based at the law firm’s Newark, N.J., office, where she advises and represents management in employment litigation.

Christopher Murray ’99 (NEW) is vice president of communications at the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Culture and Communications at Drexel University.

Milee Shah ’99 (A&S) is a health care consultant at MemorialCare Health System of Long Beach, Calif., providing consulting support to service lines for process improvement projects.

Marc Goodman ’00 (A&S/NEW) and his wife, Emily, of Dover, N.H., announce the birth of their son, Ben. Goodman is director of public relations for Comcast’s Greater Boston region.

Lisa Hotchkiss ’00 (A&S), G’01 (MAX) of Valhalla, N.Y., is director of corporate compliance at The Warburg Adult Care Community. She is a member of The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Leadership Program, which advances emerging leaders.

Rachel Koerner DeAlto ’01 (NEW) founded FlipMe dating cards, a popular retail product with an online component that gives singles the chance to make connections they might otherwise miss (flipmedating.com). She lives with her husband and children in Brick, N.J.

Aaron Goldfarb ’01 (NEW) wrote *How to Fail: The Self-Hurt Guide* (Chateau Publishing House), the comedic opposite of a self-help guide. He went on a whirlwind 30-day tour to promote the book, including a stop in Syracuse, where he spoke to Newhouse students and signed copies of his book at Chuck’s (*aarongoldfarb.com*).

Kimberly Pietro G’01 (EDU) of Pompey, N.Y., is associate vice president for institutional advancement at Onondaga Community College. She plans and directs all programs for major gifts to the Reach Beyond capital campaign, as well as annual giving and stewardship/development services.

Jacob Black ’02 (WSM) and his wife, Meredith, announce the birth of their son, Gavin London.
IN MEMORIAM

1929 Dorothy Abrams Wilkins
THE REAL DEAL ABOUT GIFT PLANNING

Think it’s beyond your reach to honor someone special with a gift to SU? Here’s the real deal about bequests, annuities, and other forms of planned giving.

> Gift planning isn’t just for those over 60. In fact, 43 percent of bequests and 35 percent of trusts are created by people 55 and younger.

> Planned gifts can be simple. Deferred giving options like annuities and bequests aren’t complex, and they can make a big impact—more than you thought possible—while protecting your family’s future.

> Most donors are motivated by altruism, not tax savings. Most people give to make a difference. Tax savings are an added bonus.

> Creative gift planning can have an immediate impact. Combine annual, outright, and deferred gifts, and you can support SU’s priorities—and The Campaign for Syracuse University—today and tomorrow.

> You’ll be recognized as a Pathfinder. With a planned gift, you’ll join this group of farsighted individuals who have included SU in their long-term financial plans.

To learn how we can help you develop your own giving strategy, contact Executive Director of Gift Planning Mike Mattson at 888.352.9535 or mlmattso@syr.edu, or visit syracuse.planyourlegacy.org.

Susan Runkle Dewey G’02, G’04 (MAX), assistant professor in gender and women’s studies and adjunct professor in international studies at the University of Wyoming, wrote Neon Wasteland (University of California Press), a book about women who, out of economic necessity, combine the emotional vulnerability of motherhood with the harsh realities of working as exotic dancers in a rust belt town.

Peter Mason ’02 (A&S) co-edited PhanFood: From the Kitchen Pot to the Tour Lot (SUNY Press), a book that brings together many of the recipes that Phish fans have made and shared over the years. Mason is a special education teacher in Troy, N.Y., and the editor of Phanart: The Art of the Fans of Phish.

Natalia Swalnick ’02 (A&S) and Josh Gross ’02 (NEW) of Denver, Colo., announce the birth of their son, Carter Marshall.

Jeffrey Dmochowski ’03 (IST) of Skaneateles, N.Y., is director of networking and telecommunications at SUNY Cortland.

Michelle Ley Fegarsky ’03 (NEW/VPA) and her husband, Matthew Fegarsky ’04 (NEW), of Hoboken, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Lucas Henry.

Patrick Mahardy ’03 (A&S) married Kerry Haefele. They reside in Camillus, N.Y.

Brian Robery ’03 (WSM) is director of airport policy and procedures at Alaska Airlines in Seattle.

Andrew Schwab ’03 (A&S) and his wife, Naomi Gabay-Schwab, of West Orange, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Simon Benjamin.

Jayson Weinstein ’03 (A&S), L’06 (LAW) married Monica Siegel. They reside in Silver Spring, Md.

Julie Feeney ’04 (NEW) married Jared Sampson. They reside in Cromwell, Conn.

Nicholas Jablonski ’04 (WSM) earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He works as a marketing manager for American Express in New York City.

Jenn Smith ’04 (NEW) was named the 2010 Young Careerist in the Berkshire Business and Professional Women’s Young Careerist Competition. She also returned to SU for a third year as a faculty member for The Duley Leadership Experience, and traveled to Haiti as a volunteer with the Haiti Plunge program of COTY Center in North Adams, Mass.

Jacquelyn Adams ’05 (NEW) started her own business, theAnecdotes, an online store featuring handmade sweaters and hats with simple lines, designs, and stitches (theAnecdotes.Etsy.com).

Jennifer Flanagan Dandrea ’05 (LCS) earned a master’s degree in engineering from Washington State University. She is a flight test engineer on the Boeing 787.

Heather Barcomb Grimmer ’05 (ARC) is chief operations officer of the Buffalo-based Central Terminal Restorations Corporation, dedicated to preserving and restoring a train terminal on the National Register of Historic Places.

Noelle Lang ’05 (A&S) is studying for a master’s degree in medieval and early modern studies at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England.

Andrew Lederman ’05 (A&S) is the third secretary for political-military affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He earned a master’s degree in global economics and politics from the London School of Economics in 2008.

Garrett S. Melchiorre ’05 (A&S), a 2010 graduate of the Chicago-Kent College of Law, is an independent oil and gas attorney in Midland, Texas.

Colette Herbert Smith ’05 (VPA), G’07 (VPA/EDU) of White Plains, N.Y., taught at Mbembe schools in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Alexandra Alazio ’06 (NEW) of Port Monmouth, N.J., is marketing coordinator at Comcast Spotlight. She develops promotional campaigns and produces commercials and community-based public service announcements.

Larry Dai ’06 (WSM) is an accounting analyst at Scholastic Inc. in New York City.

Stephanie Hubbard G’08 (NEW) of Los Angeles is a documentary filmmaker whose work has been seen on PBS, the History Channel, and Court TV. She wrote Bluff Island Rescue Service (Blackfoot Press), a memoir about her difficult relationship with her charismatic and adventurous father, a retired professor and former head of the magazine department at Newhouse.

Salman Ravala G’08 (MAX), L’08 (LAW) launched the Dollar-A-Day Scholarship Fund, a nonprofit organization that helps college- and graduate-level Muslim American students earn a college degree. He hopes to expand his fund to include students of all faiths, races, and socioeconomic status (www.muslimscholarship.org).

Jonathan Berman L’09 (LAW) married Jacqueline Inger. They reside in Washington, D.C.

Ashley Harrington G’09 (NEW) is assistant manager, international servicing, at Focus Features in New York City.

Heather Mayer ’09 (NEW) is junior copywriter at the Grey Healthcare Group in New York City.

Tamara Vallejos G’10 (NEW) is public programs and media associate at the Seattle Opera Company.
BRIAN MCLANE FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP
CREATING FUTURES WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

The courage and accomplishments of Brian McLane ’69—National Persons with Disabilities Hall of Fame inductee—have so inspired SU alumni and friends that a fellowship and scholarship were established for those who follow in his pioneering path.

As a person with disabilities, sociology major Mark Randall Walker has had the world of higher education opened to him thanks to the Brian McLane Undergraduate Scholarship. Brian McLane Fellowship recipient Rachel Patterson was motivated by her sister, who has a severe developmental disability, to make the world a more accessible place. “Growing up with my sister, I recognized the need for a disability perspective in our public policies,” she says. “The fellowship helped me decide to come to SU’s Maxwell School—it shows the University understands the importance of disability policy.”

With support from donors who believe in making a difference, inspiration from Brian McLane, and personal courage and commitment, SU students Rachel Patterson and Mark Randall Walker are both on the path to a bright future.
KATHY URSCHEL ’91, G’93 WAS AN ACTIVE CHILD WHO loved to climb trees and ride horses. At age 8, however, a mysterious virus began attacking her eyes and ears and progressed until she lost her sight at age 21 and hearing at 27. Although Urschel had every reason to sink into an abyss of self-pity, and at times was overcome with despair, she was blessed with a feisty spirit that helped her triumph over adversity throughout her life’s journey. Urschel earned an undergraduate degree in special education and a graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling at the School of Education. She became a licensed massage therapist and certified personal trainer, and performed remarkable feats of athleticism before her untimely death last November at age 46. “All you had to do is look at the scars and bruises on Kathy’s legs to know she fell down a lot,” says Steve Wechsler, Urschel’s chiropractor and friend. “She took on every challenge, fell down, and got up again—that’s the inspirational story of Kathy’s extraordinary life.”

Urschel was a born competitor. She was an elite cycling sprint racer and ultra-endurance athlete who raced from one American coast to the other in seven days as a stoker on the back of a tandem bike. In 1996, she earned a silver medal in cycling at the Atlanta Paralympics and competed in the World Cup Sprint for Outrigger Canoes in New Zealand. And she was the only woman to complete the entire 9½-week, 3,400-mile Transcontinental Triathlon in 1998. When not competing, Urschel enjoyed hiking in the Adirondack Mountains, swimming laps, skiing, and playing golf. She also devoted many hours to running Kids Need Kids, a motivational speaking organization she founded to share her messages of teamwork, inclusion, and diversity with children. In recognition of her many civic and athletic accomplishments, Urschel was named a Woman of Distinction in 2000 by the New York State Senate, and inducted into the Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

Urschel never considered herself handicapped, only challenged. In her soon-to-be released autobiography Life Cycles, she credits special education professor Douglas Biklen G’73, now dean of the School of Education, with teaching her how to identify her needs, locate people who could meet those needs, and to ask for help without hesitation. “Professor Biklen would simply ask me, ‘What do you need?’” she wrote. “He helped me become a more effective time manager and taught me that it’s all about networking and communication and that it doesn’t happen overnight. You’ve got to be diligent and stick with it.”

Urschel’s perseverance and inner strength were put to the test yet again when, during a cycling race in 1998, she was seriously injured in a high-speed crash. While recovering from a traumatic brain injury and multiple broken bones, she suffered a stroke that left her partially paralyzed. Doctors told her she would never walk again normally, but through dogged determination Urschel regained the use of 95 percent of the affected side of her body. “When the life we’ve known falls apart, we can give up or we can choose to keep moving forward,” she wrote. “We have more power in us than we know, and more help along the way than we realize. Challenges and catastrophes call us to tap into new levels of faith, power, and vision that allow us to get through whatever life throws at us. And when we do, a new self is born, and a new life-cycle begins.”

—Christine Yackel
Mike Olsen and Kim Kedenburg skirmish during a wheelchair basketball game at the first OrangeAbility sports demonstration and tournament held in March at Flanagan Gymnasium. Nearly 100 spectators cheered on the Move Along Flyers of Syracuse and the Sitrin Stars of Utica during an exhibition game of mixed-ability teams. The day-long, family-friendly event was hosted by SU Recreation Services, the Disability Cultural Center Initiative, and Move Along, a nonprofit organization that provides adapted recreational opportunities for Central New York residents with disabilities. It also showcased sled hockey, power soccer, hand cycling, air rifle shooting, and other sports using adaptive equipment.
Full of the premier homecoming and reunion events you’ve come to expect, Orange Central is a must-do weekend on your fall calendar. Connect with classmates, today’s students, and special guests, and cheer on the Orange—our 2010 Pinstripe Bowl winners—at Friday night’s Syracuse-South Florida football game.

Orange Central is also the place to catch up at special reunions. Are you a graduate of the past 10 years? Were you a member of First Year Players, DanceWorks, Habitat for Humanity, a Greek organization, or the rugby team? Did you join the Peace Corps after graduation? There are group reunions for all of you!

Get all the details... Visit orangecentral.syr.edu often for updates. Stay in the know—keep your contact info current. Just go to alumni.syr.edu/cuse, e-mail orangecentral@syr.edu, or call 800.782.5867.

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